5/19/77

Offer Your Request

This was made up 2 years ago and they all gone Now but I have a few Duplicates. Let me know

Roger

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

FIXED PRICE LIST #1

Recently I had the opportunity to purchase a very extensive Half Cent collection. This acquisition plus a few others that I have accumulated has resulted in an inventory of 86 of the 96 known varieties of Half Cents. I wish to dispose of these coins. Accordingly I am sending you this list for your consideration. The prices are net and preference will be given to orders accompanied by a remittance.

As I stated in my book, AMERICAN HALF CENTS, "The author is of the opinion that condition amounts to little more than what the collector, dealer or cataloguer wants it to be. Each person must learn to make his own evaluation and, depending on the circumstances, let his evaluation be known." I have set forth my opinion of the condition of the following coins. However, any coin which is unsatisfactory may be returned to me within five days of receipt for a full refund.

1793	CMM #2 (G-3). This is the plate coin in my book.	VF-20	$950
1793	CMM #4 (G-2). Another plate coin. However, the photograph did not do justice to the coin.	VG- 7	325
1794	CMM #1a (G-9). Again a plate coin from my book.	VF-30	300
	Another	Good- 6	75
1794	CMM #2a (G-5). Clashed die, even wear, chocolate color	VG- 7	85
	Another	Good- 4	45
1794	CMM #3 (G-7). A very rare variety. Has a number of small dents.	VG- 8	400
1794	CMM #4 (G-4)	VG- 8	100
1794	CMM #5 (G-8). Has edge bruise and light pitting.	VF-20	225
1794	CMM #6 (G-6). Sharp strike but green olive in color on granular planchet. Another very rare variety.	F-12	450
1794	CMM #7 (G-2). Granular planchet but pleasant color.	F-15	425
1794	CMM #8 (G-3). Usual weak right reverse.	VG-10	350
1794	CMM #9 (G-1). Plate coin in book.	F-15	175
	Another. With small attempted puncture	VG-10	100
	Another, with heavy corrosion spots.	Good- 4	50

September 17, 1975
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Mr. Cohen,

Within the past year I have decided to specialize in collecting United States Half Cents. I joined the Early American Coppers Club this spring, and I recently purchased from Mr. Rod Burress Xerox copies of "Penny-Wise". I have read these copies in toto, and I saw a reference to your fixed price lists of half cents. If you are still issuing a fixed price list, I would greatly appreciate receiving one from you. If you are no longer issuing one, I would like to have a copy of your previous list(s) if this is at all possible. I am enclosing one dollar for your efforts.

I have found that in Indiana half cents are, as stated in the red book, scarce. The rarest variety I have is V-6 of 1794 that is a good or very good. There is supposedly a V-3 of 1795 currently in the local marketplace, but I understand the seller wants a lot of money for it. I suppose I really should not expect to find all 96 varieties right away; besides, I do not have enough money to pay for them all anyway.

I want to tell you that I am incredibly impressed with you book.

I am planning tentatively to attend the ANA or the EAC national meetings (or both) next year, and I would enjoy seeing you.

Keep up the good work of studying the half cents.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson EAC 503
ANA 85089

January 27, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Mr. Roger S. Cohen Jr.
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Mr. Cohen,

I wrote you in July or August of last year requesting a copy of your Fixed Price List #1. I answered question number ten in Mr. Cogan's half cent quiz in Penny-Wise by saying that your fixed price list was a very significant sale because it contained so many of the very rare varieties. To say the least, I was impressed.

I am writing now to tell you of the rarer half cents I have found so that you can use them in your rarity census. I have found four R6 half cents; they are: 1794 C-6, 1794 C-7, 1794 C-8, and 1795 C-3. The four coins grade 8, 2, 12, and 10 respectively. I am not really sure of the grading of these, but the assignments are probably close. I cherried two of them, and I got the other two already attributed, but at only slightly above cherry prices.

I am not sure if I shall be able to go to the EAC meeting in New York in March. If I go, I would enjoy meeting you.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

March 30, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 462.4

Dear Mr. Cohen,

Enclosed is a pressing of an 1811 C-1 Half Cent I purchased recently. It is overall a VG10 or so, but has been cleaned, and is not a particularly attractive coin. It is slightly porous as is characteristic of many 1811's.

The main thing that is interesting about the coin is that it exhibits a new die state of the variety and indicates a different die deterioration than is currently thought.

Theere is a line break that begins at the border near the middle star on the left, it joins the middle star, the three stars beneath it, and it extends to the border well below the bottom star. There is also a small break that goes from the left point of the second star from the bottom to the border. The break below the bottom star appears to be a cud near the border, but it is not a one star break.

There is another collector in Indianapolis who has another specimen of this variety with a break in an even earlier die state. It has a line break from border to border as described above goin thru the four stars. But as I remember, the coin does not have the small break from the second star to the border, nor does it have the border cud below the bottom star.

Any comments about this are appreciated.

Do you know(have and idea) as to whether the lettered edge half cents were first stamped with the design, then lettered? Or were the planchets first lettered, then stamped? I am just curious.

I was going to wait until after April 15 to write you, but Gene Braig told me to write you as soon as possible.

I haven't any more cherries to report-yet.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

P.S These pressings w all the die cracks showing are hard to make w my little homemade press. If you know anyone else who would seriously want one, have them write me. I will have sent a pressing to Gene Braig, John Wright, Milton Pfeffer, Mr Thomas Katman, and you.

June 22, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

In March after I saw you at the EAC meeting in New York I bought two 1811 C1 Half Cents that were of previously unreported die states. One of them had a border to border die break thru the bottom four stars on the left. The other has the same break, but also has a small cud-like area below the bottom star and also has a small break from the second star from the bottom to the border.

I sent pressings of these coins to several specialists including yourself, but I had a problem in that the Post Office Department or thieves decided to remove the pressings or the entire envelopes sent to John Wright, Gene Braig, Milton Pfeffer(twice with Milton), and presumably with you also. The pressings to Mr. Latman were never intercepted. Tom suggested that we write an article for Penny-Wise on these new die states, and we did. The article has been accepted for the July, 1976 edition.

Tom was so impressed with the coins, that he traded me out of them. The coin I received in return is a 1795 Half Cent struck on a thin planchet with a lettered edge. It has your Obverse 3 married with your reverse A. It is only a Very Fair coin, but is fairly easily identifiable. The surfaces are somewhat corroded, but the pole is undeniably absent, although Tom was reticent on this point.
If you would like to see this coin, I'll send it to you for your inspection. If you would want to trade me out of it, I might be interested as I am of the opinion that these subvarieties are simply interesting novelties. You mentioned in your book a Variety 1 of 1795 in the Brobston collection that was struck on a thin, lettered planchet; does it have a pole? Do you know where I could buy a reasonably priced Brobston catalogue($5-$10)?

In case Jim McGuigan did not write you about it, a fellow collector here in Indianapolis, Ken Spatola, cherried a 1795 C3 in F15 or VF20 a year or two ago on the east coast. You can make a note of it in your census notebook if you like.

When John Lusk was here early this month, he told me he found a 1795 C2 struck on a thin, but lettered, planchet. I am of the opinion that these and similar pieces will be found with a reasonable frequency when the serious collectors become aware of their existence.

I hope to see you again before too long.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

7/20/76

Frank Wilkinson
3524 Church St.
Clermont Ind. 46234

Dear Frank.

At long last your letters of March 30 + June 22 make sense to me know that I got the 7/15/76 issue of "Penny-Wise". I did not get your previous and until you discovered the two specimens which show the die deterioration progression nothing was really known of the break, other than the 2 star break of which 4 specimens are known some and the usual 4 star break. It was a very good article and another piece of information which fits into the Half Cent story which is becoming general knowledge.

I'm very glad that others are writing about Half Cents. If you have all the copies of P.W. you will find that in the first 5 years very little appeared other than what I wrote. In the last 5 years there has been quite a bit. Furthermore I haven't done all of it. Others are writing and sharing information which is not the way it was before when a select few hoarded the data. Oh well it sure has been a change for the better.

What have you decided on the 1795 with obverse 3 and reverse A? I give you my opinion if

I don't have anything to send you on the Brobston Sale. My Copy is a Xerox. John Wright the librarian of EAC have a Copy which you could ~~[illegible]~~ borrow long enough to have a Copy Made.

The 1795's weight problem is one of these things that Collectors seek to Make New Varieties of. I have the lightest weight Brobston specimen of CMM #1 It Has a Pale and to Me its Just another Case of a Variation in planchet weight. The Normal weight was 104 Gr. but I have 6 in my Collection which Vary from 77.4 Gr. to 118.5 GR. I'm sure the CMM #2 of 1795 has Variations like that. In addition a CMM #1 Without Edge lettering is sure to show up as it did on CMM #2a. You might read Page VIII under VARIETIES in My book

This is all for Now Thanks for Writing

Sincerely
Roger

July 22, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

I would send the 1795 to you for your opinion, but I returned it to Mr. Katman with a dissertation on why I am sure that the piece is simply a worn, corroded version of 1795 C1. I should be receiving my 1811's back rather soon. I can show them to you at ANA if we both make it there. If I do not see you there, I shall make more pressings of them and send you one of each under certified mail or something like that. I sent several to Milton Pfeffer before I sent them insured to him.

Speaking of pressings and presses, I have "discovered" an easy, cheap way to make pressings. Just use a rubber-covered piece of wood, then put the coin, covered with aluminum foil onto a soft covered book, put the wood over the coin, then stand on the whole affair. It gives great results with little time or effort.

Do you have some die state information on the subvarieties of the 1794 half cents? I am hammering out a theory of how these beasts came to be, and I can use all of the die state info I can get. I have already heard from WK Raymond about his C2B and C4B, but he wasn't sure about his C5B. I am uninterested in knowing who owns which of the subvarieties-I would just like to have the information. I don't think Mr. Richard Gross is too happy with me, so if you could find out about his C3B, I would appreciate that also. Commodore Eaton wrote in the Numismatist that he had in his collection what we today would call the 1794 C1B, C2B, & C4B back in 1921. The C4B was not supposedly discovered until 1973 or so. What happened to the Eaton coin? He seemed to know what he was talking about.

I thoroughly enjoyed writing the article about the 1811 die deterioration, but it was very hard work! If people are to give the article credence, it must be well written. I had Mr. Katman help me because he knows of the die states that I don't and because he is somewhat known as compared to having an article written by some Indiana farm boy.

I agree with you analysis of the hairsplitting that some people do to "justify" a new subvariety-i.e. more money-GREED. I do have a couple myself that I am using for trade bait, but no takers as of yet. I have both the 1795 C5B and C6B.

Thanks.

FEW/mgr

2/9/7

Frank Wilkinson
3524 Church St
Clermont Ind 46234

Dear Frank,

That's a good piece of information that you got concerning Commodore Eaton's article in the 1921 Numismatist. I looked it up since I now have Quarterman book. Needless to say I had not seen these articles. As I read it he claims 1b, 2b 4b + 5b. This was before the Elder Sale of 1924 thus deserves mention now. It would be in the revision of my book but there is a number of years away.

Working with the old articles out of the "Numismatist" is quite interesting. I worked on the Ross article and I had to draw up charts to decide which variety he was writing about. I first translated it to Gilbert and then to my system. I found that Ross had a much better idea of emission sequence than Gilbert. Another thing of interest is the timing of Gilberts work being published (March 1916) and Ross' articles which began in 1915 in the "Numismatist". If you have even a reprint of Gilbert you will note there is no mention of Ross. Also in May 1916 Ross put an article in the Numismatist listing all varieties he knew of. This was probably due to the Publication

of Gilbert's book. I'm enclosing a copy of my equivalents which you may find of interest.

Eaton evidently was turned to for writing articles due to omissions + errors in Gilbert's + Ross' work. I found this to be of great interest. Thus showing that many times data is rediscovered.

I believe that you should write this up for Penny Wise. I'll be glad to go over it if you want me to, However DONT SELL YOURSELF SHORT. Drop the idea that you're just "some Indiana farm boy". Write what you think! You don't have to have the approval or O.K. of someone else. The EAC will publish. Don't worry what you write. All of these contribute to "the body of knowledge of half cents". The only thing I have ever requested is just a note that I supplied some information. This is one of my faults with Katman is his reluctance to give anyone credit. I jumped all over him about his article on the 1804 # 6 + 7 and if you will note he later gave us credit for helping him. On your article he did put you in as a co-author but who did he give credit to for the 2 Star breaks? At the present time there are 4 specimens known to my knowledge. Your finds are unique at this time and I'm glad that you still have them. Don't let people pry them away from you. If you stay in the field of half cents you will be very glad you kept them. You'll probably

find more as time goes on. I had some of these business of buying to get things away from me such as the discovery specimen of 1795-6b and 1808 #1. Check out and I in time have gotten to be known in the field of Half Cents. I think McGuigan was a fool to part with his 1808 #1. That incident just shows the power of $ or to put it another way the 5 fingered sign.

Well I'll close now. I think you'll find I'm pretty frank about most things and am working to expand the knowledge of Half Cents and I don't give a damn WHO lets the data be known. Just get it out so all of us can learn

Sincerely
Roger

How the Edge Letter Subvarieties of the 1794 Half Cents Came to Be

It is fairly well known that there are five subvarieties of the 1794 half cents namely C1B thru C5B. Who discovered these is not known for sure, but only the C3B was recently discovered, the others presumably discovered over half a century ago. All five of these are very rare. The C1B and C2B are high R7, the C3B and C5B are presumed to be unique, and the C4B is represented by two known specimens.

In the late eighteenth century at the US mint the coins were made with great difficulty as evidenced by the small number of coins made, the number of cracked dies, and even by the writings of those who worked there. In the light of these it would seem logical that the 1794 half cent subvarieties were made quite by accident rather unlike some of the happenings at the mint in the years between 1835 and 1885. To have intentionally made those five subvarieties would have been too large an expenditure of energy. At that time the coins were made by first rolling the metal into sheets of the proper thickness for the given denomination, then the sheet was run thru a planchet cutter for the production of planchets, the planchets were then either milled or letter by the only milling machine in the mint, and then the design was stamped onto the planchets by one of the three (only 3) stamping machines in the mint.

According to my theory of the production of the subvarieties, I am assuming that the emission sequence of Roger Cohen Jr. to be correct as well as the sequence of coin production as given above.

Before the 1794 C1 was stamped out the milling machine die had TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR in large letters, and about ten thousand (estimate large edge letter planchets. These large edge letter planchets were used for the production of most of the 1794 C1, but at some time during the production of the 1794 C1, the large edge letter die was discarded and thereafter a die with TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR was used in its place. A number of small edge letter planchets were placed into the bin containing the remaining large edge letter planchets, and this mixture of planchets was used for the rest of the 1794 C1 production run. The Stamping dies were then changed, and this mixture of planchets was used for a while during the early production of the 1794 C2(According to the available die state of a known 1794 C2B). Shortly thereafter, a huge number (20,000 or more) small edge letter planchets were added to the bin. These small edge letter planchets nearly the rest of the production run of the 1794 C2. At some time during the 1794 C3 production run, thetop layer of small letter planchets was used up to uncover the remaining mixture of small and large edge letter planchets. This mixture lasted thru the early part of the the 1794 C4 production run(one of the two known 1794 C4B's is from the earliest state of the dies). At some time during the 1794 C4 production run, more small edge letter planchets were added to the bin.

thus covering up the remaining large edge letter planchets. These large edge letter planchets were uncovered during the C5 production run, and were presumably(assuming that no C6, or later large edge letter half cents are to be be found) ~~were~~ finally used up.

References:

American Half Cents the "Little Half Sisters" by Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

The U.S. Mint and Coinage by Don Taxay

The Recut Dies of U.S. Half Cents. W.C. Eaton. November 1921 Numismatist

The Recut Dies of U.S. Half Cents. Corrections and Addenda. December 1921 Numismatist

Personal crrespondence with the following people interested in the subject: Roger S. Cohen, Jr., Thomas S. Katman, Milton J. Pfeffer, and W.K. Raymond. Others ___ ___ ___ ___

Mr. Katman's objection to my theory is that why was the 1794 C3 production run interrupted with planchets still on hand and the dies still in great shape as both the obverse and reverse dies were later used again. My answer at the time was that perhaps the mint had a more pressing need for the press to make large cents or some other coin. It could have been that the press itself just had to be fixed, and the dies were removed until the press was fixed or they were moved to another press.

Milton Pfeffer says that I should ask you, Katman, Del Bland, John Hansen, and WK Raymond for more die state information. Mr. Katman claims he has none.

Any comments on my theory are <u>very</u> welcome.

Notes on the Subvarieties and Pseudo-Subvarieties of the 1795 Half Cents

The following subvarieties have been proposed for the half cents of 1795: 1795 C1B which is a light weight version of the 104 grain normal C1A-the subvariety has a lettered edge although heavy or even light versions may exist that simply did not receive edge lettering before they were stamped. The 1795 C2B is the same as the famous Gilbert 8; this subvariety's existence is due to the implementation of President Washington's order to reduce the weight of both the cent and the half cent, the latter went from 104 to 84 grains, and the subvariety is unlettered which marks the weight reduction. Amazingly enough, no subvarieties of either the C3 or C4 are known to me, but some may be proposed in the future. The C5B differs from the C5A in two very important respects: These are 24.4 mm in diameter as compared to the standard 23.5 mm, and they were struck on cut down, but not rolled out, large cents that themselves conformed to the above mentioned Presidential order. The heaviest 1795 C5B to my knowledge weighs 123 grains, but if they had been struck on the pre-proclamation cents, they would have weighed 148 grains. Presumably all of these wide planchets were used to strike the C5B, but no C6B's. The 1795 C6B's were also struck from cut down, but not rolled out, large cents. These were all struck on planchets 23.5 mm in diameter and therefore have a theoretical weight of 110 grains as compared to a theoretical weight of 124 grains for the 1795 C5B.

Roger Cohen and Milton Pfeffer have pretty much discounted the existence of a true subvariety(being of mint intent) of the 1795 C1 in the 1973 and 1976 issues of Penny-Wise respectively. Roger states that the thin 1795 C1, e.g. the Brobston specimen, is probably due to an error in the rolling procedures at that time. Milton has shown that high grade specimens of the 1795 C1 have a progressively weaker pole so that a Redbook variety, 1795 No Pole with Lettered Edge, exists, but is due to die wear. The 1795 C2B is not to be confused with the C2C(?) which was struck on a pre-proclamation planchet that apparently was unlettered. The 1795 C5B and C6B are interesting in that each of them was struck separately, and their scarcity is probably due to the realization by the mint officials realization that these specimens contained too much copper. (Roger, I would bet that there is little die deterioration between the 1795 C5B and C6B-ie the C5B are late states, and the C6B's are early states). The mint officials realized their mistakes and then started to roll out the mis-struck large cents before cutting them to half cent size(a fellow collector here in Indianapolis has a C6A struck on a rolled out cent as part of the edge lettering and undertype are visible).

Die trial pieces and patterns will be commented upon later, but I just haven't heard enough about those beasts.

A few notes on how to keep from geeting took(sic) when buying rare half cent varieties.

That the coin business has attracted very intelligent con men is well known. Whether or not these guys have infiltrated the ranks of the half cent specialists is open to debate. In any event it is best to know all of the characteristics of that rare variety that you are allegedly buying. The following are fine points that may help you when making the big purchase.

The 1802 is a scarce half cent; it shouldn't be too hard to alter an 1800 or an 1803 or even an 1808 to an 1802. There are two trademarks of a genuine 1802 obverse: The T and Y in LIBERTY are more separated on the 1802 than is seen on the 1800 and the 1 is above the 8 on the 1802, while on the 1800, the situation is reversed. The reverse of the commoner 1802 has a berry to the right of the right side stem and below the lower outside leaf.

The 1805 samll five with stems can be manufactured from an 1805 large five with stems by simply polishing away parts of the 5. There are three things that this coin should have: A die bulge is usually present in front of the face on the genuine coin, there is no die break associated with the 1 of the date on the genuine piece(although the die break can be polished away), and the T of LIBERTY is just at the brow of the hair on the genuine piece, while it is slightly to the left of the hair knot on the phony.

The 1806 small 6 with stems always has a couplet of berries on the reverse near the top on the left branch, while a specimen altered by polishing away part of the six on a large 6 does not have this couplet of berries.

On the 1796 altered from a 1795 with a pole, the pole will be very skinny and will end distant from the denticles, while on the 1796 with pole, the pole is thick and goes nearly to the denticles. A 1795 without pole altered to a 1796 without pole can be simply detected by noting the absence of the horizontal die break on the obverse which is characteristic of all known genuine specimens of this rarity.

These sound trite even to me, but you might want to pass them on as they <u>might</u> help some novice save a lot of money.

~~219~~ 317-291-6462
~~811~~

ANS Breakfast

August 12, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

I think that one of the reasons that collectors are reticent to share their information is that they simply do not know what they have in their possession. They only know that they own variety X in condition Y, but they do not look at the coin closely! As an example, how many half cent specialists are aware that the 5 on all 1835's is recut? One Ohio dealer who comes to the Indiana shows knows it and he gouges the unknowing by saying that the 5 over 5 is rare.

I have developed several cherrypicking characteristics that I consider to be much more effective than counting berries and the like as my techniques work on horrible condition coins. As you have a record of, I own about the worst known 1794 G2 C7 in condition 2 or 3. I attributed the piece in about 5 seconds! These techniques will be on an additional sheet. There will also be a list of the fine points on how to make sure that the rare half cent you have just bought is not an altered specimen.

Another problem with some of the yo-yos out there is that they want to own the data and use it to their own advantage.

I am also interested in seeing as many high grade specimens as is possible-like the Tettenhorst collection-so that I can make notes on how the specimens were struck. EG I own a VF 30 1803 C1 which is the same condition as McGuigan's coin. He can afford a better one, but hasn't found one. Simple. They were poorly struck on the lower leaves on the reverse as shown by the Alvord plate coin. John Wright is including striking characteristics in his rewrite of Newcomb from 1816 to 1839, but that is one of the things that is really taking so much of his time, but his book will be a classic. I don't doubt that John's book will read even better than Dr. Sheldon's(blasphemy!). From what I understand, now that you have published a book people who thought you were just a crazy from Bethesda have sent you gobs of data that can go into your next edition. By the way, I hope you keep two copies of your data, one of which is kept in a safe deposit box or something. Once at Purdue a chemistry student was wiped out as his lab book with three years of research results was burned in a lab fire.

I'm of the opinion that Eaton only listed what we would call 1794 C1B, C5B, & C4B, but no C2B. I think Alvord had one C2B and two C1B's in his sale. How much information does your acquaintance, Walter Breen, have on this subject? Would he be willing to tell me?

A word about the 1811 article. Mr. Katman helped write it, but I knew that from the two coins I own that the two star break had to look as it does in the State III picture. Mr. Katman has written and told me that the rumored State V with the die breaks on the right side of the head has been reported to him. I have had a Hell of a time with him and another collector about those two coins of mine. They both think I am a lousy crook. They can just go rot!

I saw Mr. Spatola's 1795 C3 last week when I visited him-he lives just twenty miles away. It is probably a VF 20 by most standards. McGuigan called me Monday night and said he described it as F12/VF 20. He could be downgrading the piece as he is so interested in it, or because the obverse die was failing. The reverse is incredibly well struck.

In case Gene Braig hasn't written you, he has found a specimen of 1794 C4 G4 with a previously unreported reverse die break. He should be able to give you a detailed explanation of it.

August 19

I agree with your attribution of the Ross list with the exception of the 1793's: They should be CMM 1,2,3, & 4 in that order. Ross gives Crosby equivalents as does Mr. Gilbert.

I would be willing to put the Eaton and/or Ross articles into Penny-Wise, but would Dr. Lapp and Mr. Silberman permit that as no half cent collectors would really want to buy the book then? The book does have the Milton Pfeffer basal values, some of which are grossly low and others are quite high as several of the R7's have been knocked down to R6 and their prices have stabilized a bit. I agree with you though that Mr. Ross should be given credit for writing up in the Numismatist his list of varieties before Gilbert published his book. Ross did do a fairly good job on emission sequence considering that he was missing some of the coins for his plates!

I am sending this to you now so that you can digest at least part of it before we go to New York. If we should see one another there, we can discuss some of this stuff.

I went to St. Louis over the weekend and cherried an 1803 C4 in VF 25. I got a real kick out of it because I heard that WK Raymond was there, and I, not he, got it. I now need only the C2 to complete a nice 1803 set.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

[illegible]

→ If they don't let us, the article can circulate privately.

Wilkerson 8/31/76

Questions For Roger.

Answer ad libitum.

One of your two 1794 C2B's is listed as having clashed dies, is the other from unclashed?

[X] yes [ ] no.

According to your notes, is the broken E's (E) just on your varieties (7,8,9) or also on 6, 7, 8, 9.

F [ ] 1 or [ ] 2.

Does the ~~Broke~~ unbroken E (E) ever appear on ~~any oth~~ ~~of the~~ Varieties. 6, 7, 8 or 9?

[ ] yes [ ] no.

I have seen it on 7 8 + 9. But damage can make other specimens look like they have it. Specimen should be at least Fine to be sure.

Are the 1795 C2B (G8)'s all late state?

[X] yes all that I've seen [ ] no.

(order)

Is the 1795 C5B among the last stages of the 5 A-B useage? [ ] early ~~yes~~ [ ] late ~~no.~~ [ ] both [X] indeterminate

Was the 1795 C6B produced early or late during the E6 production run.

[ ] early [ ] late [ ] both [X] indeterminate

↓ OVER.

Will write a note in Penny-Wise requesting die state information of the 1794 and 1795 subvarieties including diameter, weight of coin + condition. Will also mention your assistance in writing up the 1811 article. Also will mention the 1794 broke E (E).

G. Wilkinson

8/31/76

When it comes to CMM 5 & 6 of 1795 there seems to be No Correlation between Planchets + Die state.

What you are playing with is the use of planchets which were first made and then used for Coinage this also applies to the delivery of planchets which is a SEPARATE operation from Coinage. When the planchets were made is important when the Mint made them but when they were secured in bulk such as from Boulton or Crocker the planchets were uniform.

What you are playing with is the Concept of Inventory which is something that accountants even today have considerable discussion about. There are 3 basic inventory methods which I will write about.

First is "FIFO" which stands for FIRST IN. FIRST OUT. which can be illustrated

ASSUME LOTS OF 100 PLANCHETS

[1] [2] [3]

No. 1 was made first. It is assumed under FIFO that No. 1 is used first. BUT, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE ?

2ND is LIFO which stands for LAST IN FIRST OUT. under this method LOT 3 is assumed to be used first. again how can you be sure?

3rd is not an official method of inventory but is very common. This method is known as the "FUBAR" method which stands for "Fucked up beyond all recognition". This I believe is the method used by the Mint. Just who is to say which planchets from lots 1,2+3 were used when? There can be positive evidence such as on 1795 but I still believe is to be the exception rather than the rule. I'll let you play with my thoughts on these matters and let me know what you come up with.

Both Debby and I enjoyed seeing you at ANA. I only purchased 1 coin (a Sheldon) but Debby ended up with a number of Colonials and a National Bank Note signed by her great great uncle. That made the show famous as we had been looking for a one time.

Sincerely
Roger

September 18, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 462.34

Dear Roger,

Enclosed you will find the 1811 half cents of mine that have become nearly immortal in some circles. I have insured them for $500 which is the amount you told me over the phone to insure them for. You have already seen the State I piece, and the State II piece is here as well. The State II was misplaced shortly before I left for New York.

The State II piece differs slightly in my opinion from the drawing that Mr. Katman made of the coin. He may have exaggerated the die cud as he had it and figured it would soon belong to him.

You may keep the coins as long as you want in order to study and photograph them. It should be interesting to compare these two with the VF 30 two star break that Ricky Gross says he sold you.

I would like to come east to see your collection as it was a tremendous disappointment for me not to see it. but the problems there was that my friend drove his car, and the driver determines the itinerary. I also missed seeing Bill Raymond's collection as he had loaned it to a friend(Tettenhorst?) to take home and study. And I was busy when the distinguished looking gentleman showed his collection that included the following: 1796 C2 on a thick planchet, a Fair 1797 C3C, and a VG 1802 C1 among others. I was very disappointed that I didn't see more half cents than those on the bourse floor and a few of the auction lots. I stopped at the mint in Philadelphia and saw the Eliasberg collection which includes the following dynamite half cents: 1796 no pole MS 65, VF 20 or so 1797 lettered edge, 1802 C2 in VF 20 or better, 1795 C6B in MS 60, and several high grade '93s and '94s among others.

Naturally you make take the coins out of the plastic holder. The holder is easily reassembled by aligning the slanted file marks on the lower left edge of the holder.

McGuigan came by last week and we went to the Illinois State show. Right after he got here I asked him if he had heard about the upcoming new Cohen number. He said, "No, what has Roger found now?" I told him about the child that will arrive in October. Jim kind of liked the pun. Congratulations on the upcoming child.

I have seen the 1794 C5 & C6 with the unusual E.

See you later.

Sincerely

Frank Wilkinson

P.S. show the coins to Ricky Gross & others if you like.

Dear Fred. 9/23/76

Enclosed are the 1811s. Many Thanks. I showed them to Ricky Grons and Made Notes for further reference. I agree with you that Tom Katman has exagerated the 1 Star Cud. but its pretty Close. The same type of break occurs on 1804 Cmn #6 particularly in the area of the U in UNITED in states 1 2+3. Unfortunately these die failures are Not always as sharply defined as the descriptions indicate. Both of these Coins are the first I seen showing the die deterioration. There are 4 known specimens of the 2 Star break, an Countless of the 4 star break. so as to the History of the die it Can be said it broke quickly. I have 2 of the 2 Star break Specimens known. The first one is Pictured in My book and I have owned it since 1948 When I was filling out a date set of Half Cents. The second one I acquired from Ricky Grons. Interestingly enough the planchet is Very similar to yours with the beginning of the CUP. The Condition is Fine as to Sharpness but Reduced to VG-8 due to the rather Porous planchet. It seems to me that the striking of these two Coins Can Not be Very far apart. Someday When You See My Collection You Will see What I Mean.

I'm tenatively planning to show up for the big Half Cent Confab Which was Mentioned in P.W. in late November but don't Mention it to anyone, as the decision to go or Not to go will probably be Made at the last Minute. I sure don't plan to Come barging in With a Verse Coker and expect to be Put up. I will Call Gusk or Mc Guigan first however if I ~~de~~ decide to attend.

It was good to hear from you again and above all don't be tempted to part with these coins for a few paltry bucks. You've got a piece of good solid 1/2 cent info just keep looking for more.

Sincerely
Roger

September 29, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

Thanks for promptly returning the 1811's to me. I am in no hurry to sell or trade them, and will do neither until after I've decided upon my long-range collecting habits.

Ricky Gross probably told you about the distinguished looking gentleman who had the following coins in his box: 1794 C2b F15, 1795 C2b VG10 or F12, 1795 C6B F12, 1796 C3 in F15 or VF20 on a thick planchet, 1797 C3 in Fair 3, 1802 C1 in VG10, 1805 C2 VF20 but scratched and VF30 1851 as well as what he left at home. These are all probably "new" or unreported previously.

Milton Pfeffer has been very helpful for the past several months. He sent me xerox copies of halfcent articles published in the Coin Collector's Journal presumably by David Proskey in 1880-84. If you don't have them I'll loan you mine to Xerox. Proskey seems to have laid good groundwork for the future researchers like Ross, Gilbert, Cohen + future... He made a few mistakes, but did a good job. He married your 1794 Obv 2 with your reverse B, which was probably a mistake, but may have been your variety X. As I see it, the main differences between Reverses A & B are: the stem to the left of the fraction is longer on Rev B than on A, and the leaves on the inside of the wreath to the left of HALF are not aligned the same. Any others?

About The F in HUNDRED: I have seen F on 1794 C5 that has sharpness of VG10 or F12. Milton Pfeffer reports F on 1794 C3, 4, + 5 and F on 1794 C5 + 9. He did not see F← the open space. It's easy to see how the bar F← gets bigger as a function of edge die wear!

Your secret is safe with me. Since I'll see you relatively soon, there is no need to write very soon especially since you + your wife should be busy this month.

Frank Wilkinson

TO: FRANK WILKINSON
3224 CHURCH ST
CLERMONT INDIANA 46234

FROM:

ROGER S. COHEN, JR., P. A.
Certified Public Accountants
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014
Phone: 657-2240

MESSAGE

— SUBJECT

DATE [illegible] 76

FOLD

[illegible] for your letter of [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SIGNED Roger

October 8, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

It is great news to hear that a 1794 C6 with large edge letters has been found. On page 12 of your book you state that 10,000, 48,000, and 23,600 half cents were delivered in the first, second, and third quarters of 1794 respectively. Assuming the three per cent rule to be correct, it seems to me as though all of the C7, C8, and some C9 were delivered in the second quarter which would indicate that these last three varieties were made shortly after(time wise) the other varieties that are known to have the large edge letter subvarieties. Does this sound logical?

I agree with you that the 1795 Gilbert 2 does not deserve to even be listed as a subvariety. It sounds to me as though it is simply a coin that inadvertently missed the milling machine. I am of the opinion that a subvariety has to be an intentional change by the mint or governmental officials.

Would you consider the 1796 C2 on a thick planchet in the Schoenwalter collection to be a subvariety. Walter Breen in the Coin Collector's Journal in 1954 stated that he knew of one such coin struck on a cut down large cent planchet. Obviously the coin should be seen again.

I fairly well agree with your rarity ratings of all the varieties. It does seem strange to me that such a rare variety as 1804 C7 has so many specimens that are VF35 or better and yet it is R5-and a tough coin to get if I do say so myself. The 1803 C2 is also R5, but it seems to me as though it is less available in high grade like the 1804-7.

I met a Mr. Woodrich from Conn. this past weekend at the Penn-Ohio show in Cincy. He seems to have a nice collection, and he does seem to be fairly knowledgeable. He has an 1802 C1 that is 4/1 and an 1794 C8 that is 4/2 neither of which he says he has reported to you. I have seen the 1794, and I could make it out to be the C8 rather than the C9.

I have included the Proskey papers as you requested, but I do not have all of them yet; Milton will either send me the rest, or I shall borrow the references from the ANA. I'll send you the rest when I get them. I have included a conversion table of all of the principal authors with whom I am familiar.

Do you ever correspond with Mr. Julian, the noted authority from Logansport, Indiana? If so, I would like to be introduced to him. He seems to have quite a bit of knowledge himself.

Return my references ad libitum.

Frank Wilkinson

P.S. The 1796C2 in Unc being sold by Bowers & Ruddy has double cun. Re-engraved?

Equivalents for all of the half cent varieties according to the major authors

	Cohen	Gilbert	Ross	Proskey	Crosby
1793	1	4	1-A		2-B
	2	3	1-B		2-A
	3	1	2-B		1-A
	4	2	3-C		1-B
					Steigerwalt
1794	1	9	1-A	6	5-E
	2	5	2-B	3	3-A
	3	7	3-E		4-C
	4	4	4-E &5-E	4	2-C
	5	8	3-C	5	4-D
	6	6	3-D		4-B
	7	2	6-D	2	1-B
	8	3	6-C		1-D
	9	1	6-B	1	1-A
1795	1	1	2-A	1	
	2	3	1-A	2	
	2b	8			
	3	7	1-E	4*	
	4	4	1-D	3	
	5	6	3-B	5	
	6	5	3-C &4C	6	

Proskey number four appears to have been misdescribed as a mule of Cohen Obverse 2 with ReverseD.

1796	1	2	1	2
	2	1	2	1
1797	1	4	2-B	4
	2	3	3-B	3
	3a	2	1-A	2
	3b	1	1-A	1
	3c			
1800	1	1	1-A	1
1802	1	2	1-A	
	2	1	1-B	1
1803	1	2	1-B	2
	2	4	1-D	
	3	3	2-C	3
	4	1	1-A	1

Year	Cohen	Gilbert	Ross	Proskey
1804	1	6	2-B	
	2			
	3 delisted			
	4	10	1-A	
	5	11	2a-A	
	6	8	2a-D	7
	7	9	2a-C	
	8	6	2a-E	6
	9	5	3-E	5
	10	4	4-E	4
	11	1	5-G	1
	12	3	4-F	3
	13	2	5-F	2
1805	1	1	3-D	
	2	4	1-B	
	3	3	1-A	
	4	2	2-C	
1806	1	1	1-A	
	2	2	2-B	
	3	(1/2)	(1/2)	
	4	3	3-C	
1807	1	1	1-A	1
1808	1			
	2	1	1-A	
	3	2	2-B	

317-291-6462

November 1, 1976
3524 Church St.
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

It has been rumored that you collect very unusual half cents as well as guns, large cents by variety, and half cents by variety, sub-variety, and die state. A very unusual half cent has come on the market that I wouldn't mind owning, but owing to financial problems, I thought I would make sure you knew of the piece (I'm assuming you've seen the picture of the coin & figured out what it truly is, but I just wanted to make sure). The coin is lot 578 of the Nov. 18, 19, 20 Stack's sale. It is described as a doubly struck 1802 half cent in Good - Very Good. It is actually an off-center 1800 half cent that was restruck in 1802. That it is a "restruck" 1800 rather than a doubly struck 1802 can be seen by examining the relative positions of the 18 of the undertype. First the 1 of the undertype is lower than the 8 which is a characteristic of 1800 half cents, but not those of 1802. Second the 1 of the undertype is closer to an imaginary line that could be drawn downward from the groove where the hairline & drapery meets which is again a characteristic of 1800, but not 1802 half cents.

I would have told others about this coin, but I feel that you would appreciate it more than any of the other half cent collectors I know. (You'd appreciate it for what it is, not just for what its resale value might be).

I have told noone of your intent to come to the Nov. confabulation

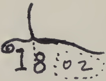
J. Wilkinson

Comments are appreciated.

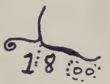
ANS BY [illegible] 11/19/76

P.S. Please do not mistake the tone of my letter as chutzpah; it's just that I'd much rathel you have that coin than any of the following kind of collector: a vutture, a hole filler, or someone who justs beats people over the head w. a stick of money to get the coin(s) he wants. I.E. if you get it, I know that it will be truly appreciated.

MGR



Note the high 1 + the 1 distant from the line.



Note the 1 lower than the 8 & the 1 close to the dotted line

Lot 578 is like this one.

December 16, 1976
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

Last night I picked up the 1794 C6 I called you about a few weeks ago. I had asked its owner to supply me with its provenance if he possible could. He did, and it coincided with Number 7 in Milton Pfeffer's survey in Penny-Wise: NN57th Sale Lot #3(1963) VG10/15. I don't know why the fellow bought the coin as he is only a type collector and he could have gotten a much higher grade type coin for his money. I may be undergrading it, but I still consider it to be only VG8. It has the die break on the B in LIBERTY and only one small clash mark in front of the throat. I sold my Good 6 to McGuigan for $250, which is its book value. I paid the book value for the one I got last night.

It gives me pleasure to know that I supplied Gene Braig a nice VG8 of the 1804 C6 State 5 very cheaply while Katman is still advertising to buy one.

The 1795 C3 VG8 in my collection may be listed as many as three times in your book: McGuigan reported it to you as a Fine specimen, I reported it to you as being a VG8, and it actually came from the Kagins attributed as the Gilbert 7 and probably originates from their MANA Conv. Sale of November, 1974 Lot #2, where it was graded VG. The Spatola coin I had told you about is at best a F15 due to several planchet defects, and it was offered to me for a measly old $1200! I know of at least 12 of the 22 or so known of that variety that have been offered for sale within the last two years: Bill Raymond had five of them at Ann Arbor, The Good coin in Katman's collection, the Braig VG8, my VG8, McGuigans VG10 Ex Katman, Spatola's coin, the EF40 in the March, 1975 Stack's sale, and the AU specimen in the Showers collection. That 12 of them have been on the market attributed in the past two years just amazes me. Do you know of any others?

You probably heard about the half cent get together last week when Lusk and McGuigan were in Washington for that show there. It was a great experience for me to see so many rare varieties and to learn more about grading, but I was very disappointed that no coins were either weighed of measured(any coin weights I'll give in this letter were supplied to me by the coin's owner). Jon's 1795 C2 "subvarieties" were shown, and it is the consensus opinion that his thick unlettered piece is simply a C2 that was not lettered, i.e. a mint error. His thin lettered weighs nearly 89 grains and is both pitted and well-worn, which would indicate that it is just a very worn C2, which is a conclusion that is anathema to him.

Bill Raymond had part of his collection with him as well as the leftovers of the Blaisdell collection and the Tettenhorst duplicates.

Bill was trying to trade away the second finest known of the 1804 C2 and 1806 C3. He wanted too many of Jim's fantastic coins for his 1804 C2, and I didn't hear what Bill wanted for his 1806 C3. It seems to me as though Bill used his imagination when he assigned prices to mostly the coins he is selling.

About ten minutes before I left for home Bill told me he wanted my unusual 1811's. He didn't make me any offers, but he said to take my pick of some coins in his box. I told him what I would take, knowing full well he would reject my offer, and he did. I told him I still don't know what I will eventually do with them. I am not out to trade them to the highest bidder, but it does bother me when people offer me peanuts for the coins I own, but want the moon for their own.

My notes on the confabulation includes the following information you might like to know: The 1794 C4b's are graded F15 and F12, the F12 has clash marks above the head and in front of the throat but has no bulge to the left of the date, while the F15 has only a small clash mark below the I of LIBERTY. The 1794 C6b has numerous clash marks in front of the throat and has the small break on the B in LIBERTY. The 1794 C2b and C5b in Bill's collection were graded 40 and 30 respectively. These large edge letter subvarieties appear to me to come on orangish brown planchets that are much more attractive that most of the 1794's I have ever seen. This includes the low grade C2b's that were there.

I looked at the 1797 lettered edges to see if their edges were beveled like you told me at the ANA, and they are. The 1797 C3A's are too. The Showers 1797 C3b weighs 94.9 grains. Could this have been a cut down, but not rolled out, cent?

The 1795 C5b's I saw appear as though they were of a later state than the 5a's I saw. This may be only a tendency, but it is an indication of either LIFO or FIFO, but not FUBAR. Three VF20 or better 5b's were there as well as a VG piece.

I have gotten very little data in response to my request in Penny-Wise, but I did get a bit of useful information from TDHowe of Houston, Texas who said that the U in HUNDRED on his 1794 C9 tilts to the left. I use this characteristic to make sure that the Small Edge Letter die was not changed. I have not yet seen another SEL die used. It seems to me as though the 1794 SEL planchets were used LIFO as a general rule, but with exceptions.

Have a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Frank Wierzba

1/21/76

Frank Wilkinson
3524 Church St.
Clermont Ind. 46234

Dear Frank,

Enclosed is the latest update on the Condition Census. Please remember to read the introductory Remarks which I've attached. I'm sure that this info can be refined further and in time it will be, but for now this is my best estimate.

Thanks for the data on the 94 #4 and 95 #3 it all helps. Particularly as to the 94 #6 from NN 57th Sale. These coins will be listed in the sale and when a Non Variety Collection gets them there is a gap which is seldom known so that when it reappears it is taken as a New specimen previously unknown.

I enjoyed your comments on W.K. Raymond. Just remember he's a dealer despite what he says everything he owns is for sale. The 94 #4b, 5b, & 6b will be sold when he can get enough cash or a trade that he can turn into cash. The attempt to get for 1811's was, of course, trying to trade them to me for my right arm, right leg and right testicle. I had seen all the coins WKR had at the MSNS show on 11/21 at my home. I did get one upgrade a 1797 #2 in VF-30 which was a coin that Tettenhorst had

out bid me on in a 1973 Stacks Sale. The Price to me was reasonable in view of what I had bid at the sale so I took it. Other than that there was nothing I could afford or wanted.

I'm really sorry I couldn't get to the MSNS show but I can't spend all my spare time on Coins.

The 1797 #3b that weighs 94.9 gr is normal. The weights vary considerably. If you'll read some of my back articles in PW you will see that I consider them to be struck in 1800 from large cents that were scrap. This also applies to the #3a's and #3c's. As I said in my article it's a process of elimination that I arrive at that conclusion but what else do we have to go on?

Next time we get together let's go over the 95 #5a's and the 94 edge lettering. At that time we'll go over my collection but it will have to be some time after May 1 as on January 1 I start to get overloaded with work. Keep in touch if there are any startling developments but don't expect quick answers.

Sincerely
Roger

May 17, 1977
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

I haven't come up with much new stuff lately; I suppose I was to eventually slow down anyway.

I am actually writing you about a coin I have become acquainted with recently that Ron Guth is offering for sale that would go well into either of our collections(picture enclosed). Ron called me and described the coin as being a 20 to 25, but I would say it is no better than a 15 even when considering the poor striking characteristics of this variety.

As I cannot afford to buy it outright, I would have to trade it out of him, which would be painful. If you would like to get it, you could deal personally with Ron or I would be willing to be your "agent" with no fee for my dealing in your behalf. Ron seems to be interested in collecting Liberty Cap varieties, but I am not sure what his long range collecting intentions are.

I did go to the Central States show in Milwaukee over the weekend and cherried a F15 1804 C5; I got it since it was so cheap. I may trade it as I already have a VF35.

Would you please return the reverse photograph as well as the Proskey reprints as they are the only copies of each that I have.

I would like to get to Washington to see your collection. This time when I go East, I'll drive myself as I have found that, "He who drives, determines the itinerary." Which is why I couldn't get to your place last year.

Good health to you, Debra, and your daughter.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

September 23, 1977
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

It was really good to see you and Debra at the ANA in Atlanta. The information you gave me about the 1794 C8 was quite interesting, and I doubt if I would have noticed the clash marks for a very long time, if ever.

I wrote to Milton Pfeffer about the clash marks you pointed out on the 1794 C8. I also told him that we had seen the MS65 1794 C7 for sale at the ANA. I told Milton that you had pointed out a couple of small clash marks on that coin in the hair of Liberty, and that I had pointed out a small die break on the cheek of Miss Liberty right above her ear. The following is the reply I received from him.

"About the mint state 1794 G-2, I have an actual photograph, enlarged, of that coin and I cannot see (1) the break on the face and hair above the ear or (2) the clash marks. Are you certain that you saw them? Roger Cohen wrote in his book that the same reverse, used earlier to strike 1794 G-6, shows a line connecting the two upper leaves. Can you recall anything like that?" We did see (1) and (2), didn't we? I do not have any idea what Milton is talking about on the reverse E used to strike the 1794 G-6. Do you? I would imagine that the line connecting the two top leaves he is referring to is on your variety #8.

I pointed out the hairline break on the cheek to John Cogan on his 1794 C9 that is high grade. John said he had never seen it before. since we saw it on the C7 and I saw it on a very late state C9, it must be on nearly all of the Obverse 5 coins. Agreed?

I answered the questions to Mark Borckardt's quiz and sent them off. I told him I thought that question #1, who was the designer of the 1793 Half Cent?, is nearly impossible to now know for certain. I remember your saying last year you thought that Joseph Wright cut the die for Obverse 1 and that Adam Eckfeldt cut Obverse 2. I have been looking at that question for the past year and a half since you told us that at the 1976 EAC in New York. I have noticed that the same punches weren't used for both obverses in some instances. For example the 1 and 7 puches for the date were definitely different. Most of the rest of the punches appear to be nearly identical with the possible exception of the T punches. The T punch ~~01~~ on the obverse and reverse may be different.

I can say that the obverse 1 and 7 punches are different. That is for sure.

I am currently trying to put together a notebook of the die states of the varieties along with some information about rarity and condition census for my own edification. I may include some date on the repunching of letters. I have included one a copy of one of the four or so that I have actually written up very well(in my opinion). I am including data that you and Milton have supplied in addition to that which I get myself. What do you think of this one?

I am working on the 1794's quite a bit now. I have most of the information for all of them except for C3 and C4. There are so few of the C3's around; I know that Ricky and WK consider it to be an R5, but I have seen only 3 of them ever-four if you count Ricky's 3B. I'll be glad to send you copies of more pages when I get a bunch of them done. The 1794 ¢ C5 that Jim McGuigan bought-lot 798 of the Oct. 1976, Bowers and Ruddy sale has clash marks before the throat, and the picture looks like it has the B to rim break on the Obverse. I hadn't known this before.

I was recently thinking about the repunching of the half cent dies-especially those after 1808. I was trying to figure out if the mint had some letters repunched, then repunched some more, then maybe even later they repunched even some more. I thought that if one would check the repunching of the dies like Milton Pfeffer is currently doing (I don't know how much of this you do-I would imagine you do). I thought that if one had a grid on which he could check out any progression of repunching, he could see if the die were in fact repunched on more than one occasion. I made up a grid that I'll use, and I'll put on it the date, condition and variety, then check the appropriate box if the letter,numeral or star has been repunched. I have enclosed a xerox copy that you can use if you like.

Would you please return the xerox copies of the David proskey articles that appeared in The Coin Collector's Journal in 1881 or so.

I don't know when I'll be coming East, but I hope to sometime before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

Date Numeral letters of #of Star counterclockwise HH A L F C E N T U N I T E D S T A T E S OF AM ER IC A
Var. of date L I B E R T Y. from the point of bust
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3

1794 C8 Obv5/Rev D Gilbert 3 Ross 6Ca

Obverse. The high relief head.

Reverse. Another "half cent reverse type" made from the hub used on reverses A, B, and D. Most easily distinguished by the six berries on the right branch of the wreath. Five berries on the left branch.

Die breaks: Rev. A break thru the second T of STATES extends from the rim. Obv. A hairline break on the cheek above the ear.

Clash Marks: Obv. Numbrous in the hair from 7:00 to 9:00 and a few between the head and Cap below the I of LIBERTY.
Rev. A clash exists from the O of OF to the S in STATES made from the bustline. The 9 and 4 of the date can be seen near the E and S of STATES on high grade specimens. The bustline clash is visible on the Alvord, Brobston, and Gilbert plate coins.

I am uninterested really in the information below the line, I did this for fun. I am most interested in the information above the line. That below I'll complete(?) at some time later.
Fine or better specimens that are problem free in not necessarily order of condition

1. AU-Brobston-Showers(?)-Tettenhorst(?)-planchet defect on the left obverse rim-plated in Catalogue & Encyclopedia of US Coins
2. VF-Brobston-Katman-has the Reverse break
3. F15-RSC, purchased unattributed
4. F15-VF-Alvord-whereabouts unknown to me
5. F12-John Cogan-purchased at unattributed price from World Wide's Mike Griffith
6. F12-FEW-has the Reverse break-purchased unattributed from Mid Continent Coins at the 1977 ANA

7. F12-FEW-purchased unattributed from Midwest Coinarama-VF with problems
8. F12-Cogan-unattributed from a Superior sale-incredibly sharp, but very dark and pitted badly on the reverse
9. VG10 or 8-RCS-problem free and hence nice
10Tom Wolf- A VG8 cherry to Gene Braig
11. VG7 or 8 Jon Lusk-cherry
12. WKR FPL#1 VG10-actually VG8
13 RSC-another duplicate
14 RSC-a third duplicate
15. Carvin Goodridge-VG or so-exact grade and provenance unknown
16. Milton Pfeffer-probably VG-exact grade and provenance unknown
17. Richard Gross-grade and provenance totally unknown
18. Carvin Goodridge-A cherry Fair or Very Fair to Bob Yuell
19. KARCOA-Fair or Very Fair
20. Seven Levy Fr 2-reported in 1977 PW page 181

You may want to put some of these into your notebook. I am pretty sure that all of these are different specimens. I did not include the VG10 sold at the ANA a few years ago that you mentioned in Penny-Wise as it may be one of the above specimens. I also understand Tettenhorst has some duplicates.

TO: Frank Wilkinson

FROM:

ROGER S. COHEN, JR., P. A.
Certified Public Accountants
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014
Phone: 657-2240

MESSAGE

SUBJECT Proshi Paper. DATE 9/27/77 FOLD

Sorry, Enclosed is as per your 2nd request.

Will write soon

Looks as though 1794 #8 can definitely be rated R-5

SIGNED Roger

May 3, 1978
3524 Church Street
Clermont, Indiana 46234

Dear Roger,

I would have written earlier, but I understand thay your tax season keeps you busy and that it has just now ended. I am writing to ask if it is all right if A. I present your idea of a theoretical 1794 half cent variety to the 1978 Central States EAC meeting and/or B. The appended article sent to Dr. Lapp, in revised form, for publication in P-W so that other EAC members can be on the lookout for the variety. Return the enclosed postcard to me so that it gets here by Thursday of next week when I plan to go to St. Louis for the CSNS.

I am still of the opinion that the clash marks on the 1794 Obverse 3 were made by Reverse C rather than D, which would indicate an emission sequence, for that obverse,of 3-5-6. I could be wrong, but I still think that I am correct.

You mentioned in November that you would welcome any ideas as to the emission sequence of the 1803 C3 to 1804 C5 group. My idea follows, but it is important for me to state that it is impossible to place a couple of varieties with absolute certainty.

1st	1803	C3	First Use-a rather uncommon coin
2nd	1803	C3	Second Use-rather common, and often has a bulge at the date
	1803	C4	Almost certainly struck in 1805
3rd	1804	C1	Slightly broken reverse-of only slightly later state than 1803 C3 Second Use
4th	1804	C1	Reverse pretty heavily broken-sequence exact to here
5th	1804	C4	Perfect, then cracked obverse and reverse
☆6th	1804	C2	Same state, then more heavily broken obverse than 1804 C4
7th	1803	C3	Reverse incredibly heavily broken-Reverse finally discarded
8th	1804	C5	

Upon further cogitation I believe this sequence to be correct as you told me in November that the 1803 has some examples known with the latest state of the dies.

Lot 932 in the Stack's May 30, 31, 1975 sale has straight across edge markings similar to those found on my 1795 C5b. I believe that that pattern was first struck as a dollar, then cut down to size, and I believe the same was true for the 1795 C5b and C6b.

Also, I believe that you should measure your 1803 C4 and 1805 C2 with a micrometer, and they should have an incredibly close diameter if they were struck together. My 1803 C3 and 1304 C1 have the same diameter.

I know that some of what I have said may seem controversial and unsubstantiated, at least for now, but I just wanted you to have some of my ideas to see what you think of them.

☆ breaks more advanced than late state 1804 C1

Frank Wilkinson

A Theorectical 1794 Half Cent Variety

Roger Cohen and Frank Wilkinson

There is evidence for a very rare variety that fits into the emission sequence a marriage of 1794 heretofore not recognized. Such a coin has not yet been discovered, but we believe the evidence warrants the existence of this variety, and we want the entire membership of EAC to be on the lookout for it.

The evidence for the theoretical variety follows three lines:

1. Reverses A and B are nearly identical having been made from the same hub which later made reverse D. The principal differences between the reverses being the left stem is much longer on Reverse B and the 1 of the numerator being embedded in the left ribbon of Reverse B, while it is not on Reverse A.

2. Obverse 1 and Reverse A(especially reverse A) appear in good shape even on late state coins.

3. Clash marks: Variety #1 is clashed on both the obverse and reverse, while Variety #2 is heavily clashed only on the Obverse (I do not know if lapping, the removing of clash marks from the dies, was done in 1794, but it would seem logical to lap both the obverse and reverse dies simulteneously). We believe that the clash marks on Obverse 2 were probably made by Reverse A during a brief marriage. The problem with studying clash marks is that one should work with high grade specimens, and it is a lot of work just to find five to ten Fine or better 1794 C2's to correlate the appearance(or disappearance) of clash marks with the die states.

The existence of a variety between C1 and C2 could be proven in either of two ways: The first would be to find such a coin, and it would almost certainly be Obverse 2/Reverse A. The other method would be to find clash marks on a coin that weren't made by die which stamped out the other side of the coin.

If you send this to Dr. Lapp for publication, please revise it, as I don't like the way some of it sounds.

Wilkinson

May 23, 197[illegible]

Dear Roger,

I kind of blew it in my last letter when I wrote about 1803-1804 emission sequence I believe I had 1804 C2 out of place as it was probably made ~~later~~ between the first and second use of 1804 C1 (I do not remember having seen or heard of the large die break on 1804 Rev A on an 1804 C2).

I went to the Central States show and studied a few nice Half Cents and put the notes in my book I noticed that 1794 C5 has the reverse rotated severely, and I now believe you when you say the 1794 emission sequence should be 1,2,5,3,4,6,7,8,9. I made a tracing from your book of Reverses C + D of 1794 and overlaid them on the plate of Obverse 3, and the leaf to the left of C ~~of~~ in CENT appears to be the ~~clash~~ one showing on the obverse just below the chin extending to the throat. Would you please check the rotation of your coin(s) of 1794 C5 to make sure this is correct? I think that if the leaf + berry ~~or~~ (clashmarks) can be identified positively, I think that this should be written up for Penny-Wise. What do you think?

I was also probably wrong in my last letter about the 1795 C5b, but lot 432 of Stack's May 1975 sale was almost certainly either A. struck without a collar or B. struck on a dollar-sized blank and then cut down with a very jagged cookie-cutter as the edge of [illegible] looks like the straight across file marks New Netherlands half piece. It was for sale at the 1976 ANA for $500.00 It was one of the pieces for sale at the 1976 ANA for $500.00 It was one of the coins I did not take home with me. I'd [illegible] me to [illegible] any ideas you have of the edge marks on the 1795 C5b's

This spring I was admitted to graduate school at Michigan State in biochemistry. I'll start in September.

I recently got a job as a peasant making bathroom sinks. I'm saving my money up for a couple coins & for school.

Say hello to Debbie.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilkinson

P.S. At the C.S.N.S. I volunteered my services to Ken Bressett to give the Red Book more realistic prices of half cents. Would you be interested in checking over my values. We are to price the coins according ~~to~~ to the ANA's new grading book.

Also at C.S.N.S. only Tettenhorst was interested in seeing the reasons for a 1794 Variety X among the H.C. collectors. I just mentioned that there should be such a coin & that I had the reasons why.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HALF
CENT
1
200

Rev C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CENT
1
200

Rev D

October 1?, 19?1
E 201 Owen Hall MSU
East Lansing, Michigan 48825

Dear Roger,

I left a message with Jim McGuigan's phone answering service, and I received a letter this past weekend. It seems as though the half cent world has been busy. He answered my question by saying there will be no half cent happening this year as Jon and Sally Lusk will be playing bridge in San Francisco during the Thanksgiving holiday.

He also said that a revision is due out soon of your book. Please send me a copy as soon as it comes off the press and send me a bill for the book with it. Needless to say, I am very interested in the revision. (He mentioned that the long-awaited Breen book is due out soon. Walter is collaborating with Jack Collins).

Jim said that Jon Hanson and Jack Beymer displayed some of their holdings at the recent EAC meeting held during the Long Beach show. Jon has 1793 C1 with the break in AU50, 1794 C8 EF40-45, 1795 C1 MS, 1795 C4 MS, 1797 C1 Early and Late beoth MS, 1804 C5 MS, 1806 C2 MS(Prooflike), 1808 C2 AU55 plus. I don't know if you're aware of the holdings of JH, and I thought you'd want to know in case you didn't.

Jim has also told me of a type collector(General US) who has the 1826 C2 in blazing red MS65 for his 1809-1835 half cent. Apparently the fellow is uninterested in selling. Page 538 of the Lapp-Silberman book on Large cents has a photo of a nice example of that variety with the two-star break. Are you familiar with that example?

I heard from a couple of sources, so I can imagine you have already too, that Carvin Goodridge bought a very nice 1804 C4 from Stack's at a very nominal price. The grade of the coin has been reported around from 25 to 40. Anyway, it sounds nice.

I haven't heard much else in the world of half cents. If I seem overly interested in high condition coins, it's due to the fact that that's about all JRM tells me about when I call him. Oh yes, he did say that both Jon Lusk and Tett have nice examples of the 1804 C7 with no trace of the reverse break. Have you seen such a coin?

Here's wishing you a nice Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and etc. assuming I don't write again sooner.

Very truly yours,

Frank Wilkinson

Frank Wilkinson

PS I see my very good friend John Wright every month or two as it is only 35 miles out of my way to stop in St. Joe when I travel from home to here. Could/Would you give him some pointers on his publishing his book himself? He just doesn't know how to do it and does not want to be at the mercy of the usual coin book publishers. Don't let him know I write you about this matter, if at all possible

10/15/81

Frank Wilkinson
E 201 Owen Hall MSU
East Lansing Mich 48825

Dear Frank,

Got Yours of 10/12 and will Comment on.

I was at Long Beach actually I sat behind Jims Table along with Bill Weber. It was an interesting show.

I got to see Jack Beymers Half Cents as well as a Number of others. Jon Hansons Coins are another Matter. They were in a Case at the EAC Meeting. They were in boxes and only one side was up. No one to my knowledge of the "great unwashed public" got to see both sides of the Coin. I do Not believe Hanson has many more Coins For he is a Condition snob. I have been able to figure out Where some of these Coins Come from Such as the 1793 which was in the Merkin March 1968 Sale Where Breen rated it as a EF-45. The 1794 which had the obverse up. has been reported as a #8 or #9 - Unfortunately the reverse was Not seen. I have Not included any of Hansons Coins in My OC records unless they are allready in from another source. Hanson is Not Cooperative and really doesn't Want anyone to know What he Has. He is also a one way street He will take data from you but will Not return or share anything he knows.

I had Noticed the 1826 2 Star break in the R Ross article - Where this Coin is is Not known to the It appears to be at least a 40 or 50 Coin and the 5 I have record of do Not Come up to that grade.

I got a letter from Goodridge in regard to his 1804 #4 from Starts Store stock He grades the Coin as VF-30 and is the 2nd Highest known to Me.

I have the 1804 #7 with No break and it an VF-20 – The Coin Came from R. Munde's Collection and Was Ex – BM DOUGLAS – WALTER BREEN – C JON HANSON In going back over my Collection I was surprised how many Coins I have from Munde that are Ex – Breen and Hanson – Breen Has No Collection I am also of the opinion that his book will be a great disappointment to Half Cent Collectors. He is out of Date and Most Collectors Now know More than He does. I saw a good bit of this at Long Beach. I even let them Photograph one of My 1800's Which is the rusted die state. Breen Had No Idea they Existed – I also Noted that, as I expected, Nothing Came back to Me in the way of data. I think their book if ever Published will have Higher rarity Rating than My Second Edition also the Condition Census Will be lower. After 30 years of Promises and No Production do you think any they Will Change! Brace yourself if it does come out its going to be a flop — unless its Promoted

By the way if you ever talk to Breen don't use My Numbers He doesn't know them – He Claims to have Never seen My book Which is a Lie He saw it in December 1971. He has also changed his tune about the Number of TAL overstrikes used on 1795 dated Half Cents struck in 1796. He Now says 50,000 Were overstruck yet He refuses to give Me Credit for Pointing out his error

that was printed repeatedly that 32,000 overstruck were made. If you will look at my 1971 book I devoted two paragraphs in the General Comments section on 1795 to point out that Walter used the Troy scale for Copper which is incorrect. He also made a 10,000 error in multiplication. Yet he claims never to have seen my book! What a bullshitter! I could write pages about ALNB which stands for Americas Leading Numismatic Bullshitter. Enough of this.

The book should be available in December. You are on the list for a free copy as you have made a contribution to it. I have enjoyed both your letters and conversations I think this is the least I can do to thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely

Roger.

John Wright is another case. I wrote to him 5 years ago imploring him to quit using the cheapy method of getting his studies published via "Penny Wise" — I believe its to late as Penny wise was not copyrighted in those days. Its free information to anyone who wants to publish it now.

R.

August 31 1982
711 Burcham Dr Apt 16
East Lansing Michigan
48823

Dear Roger:

I've been talking with Jim McGregor over the past few months, and he tells me that [illegible] of you have been planning a half cent [illegible] for [illegible] the [illegible] meeting in September. Is this [illegible] still on? If it's still scheduled, I'll [illegible] [illegible] would be the greatest half cent [illegible] to my knowledge.

Jim tells me that he's gotten some nice specimens lately, and that a few bigger ones have gotten away. He got an 1803 #4 in VF [illegible] [illegible] 1797 [illegible] [illegible] Tett [illegible] he missed [illegible] broke [illegible] going for an 1802 #2 VF30 from [illegible] and a VF [illegible] 1811 #1 with the [illegible] break being offered by Del Bland. But his being broke is quite understandable.

In the May issue of Penny-Wise I [illegible] a copy of the [illegible] catalogue, and I got it along with a couple of NN sales. I must say that the [illegible] sale was really something, and it's a shame that [illegible] didn't plate more coins! Like they didn't plate the EF 1793 #1 Jim bought at the ANA [illegible], the VF 1794 #[illegible], the [illegible], the EF 1795 #2 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] August 1981 (I [illegible] [illegible]

Anyway I would [illegible] to him I'm [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], the [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I'm still rather limited in my [illegible] so that I cannot get nearly all the catalogs that I'd like. He has [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] collection [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 1847, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] M [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] PW 1875 p. 29 [illegible] But being [illegible] [illegible] (I [illegible]) I want to get the most information for my money. Like to have a priced copy of the Jenks sale [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] $75.— or $125.— for the Jackson sale.

Jim was telling me that the [illegible] Clapp [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] familiar [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] All [illegible] [illegible] I'd [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. If the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] put [illegible] that has [illegible] for [illegible]. For instance, [illegible] [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible] has previously been in the [illegible] sale? [illegible] [illegible] (?) [illegible] but there [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Brookston Jim thought the [illegible]

was previously in the Massachusetts Historical Society's collection.

Do you own a copy of the Shawnee book by Stickle that I could borrow? I would be willing to browse it at Pitts[illegible], or DC whenever I'm there or here if you don't [illegible]. If you know of anyone who would be willing to sell me one, let me know.

I'm about a year from finishing my Ph.D. and my life is in reasonably good shape. Say hi to Debbie and the girls. Hope all is well with you.

If you do write to me, I might convince John [illegible] to come too. He could [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]).

The Indian [illegible],
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I would appreciate [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] would be [illegible] [illegible] would be helpful

I [illegible] happen [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] #1 [illegible]

[illegible] #2 from [illegible] you [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] metal detector [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] what [illegible] you want.

I [illegible] the Chapman catalogues [illegible] photo [illegible] for a lot. They [illegible] [illegible] about [illegible] in 1793 and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

If you [illegible] interested in getting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

1791 #2a is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] probably [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] '91 [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible].

If you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

If I were to be a judge of the [illegible]
I would say the highest grade [illegible] the one
that would reflect our basic piece. I'm convinced that

12/8 – [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] XY [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Aug 1, 1984

Roger,

Here are the photos of the two coins I called you about last night: 1793-1 late state and 1794-3 [illegible] state. I know you think [they] aren't upgrades but the 1794 has a break I've seen only on Tim McGuigan's coin. If you would want to negotiate for the coin, their address is:

Bob/Tom Matthews — 3150
Box 128
Howell, MI 48843

I was stunned to find such a rare coin in such a group of Half Cents.

I looked at the Breen book on Sunday afternoon. The pictures are ok, but WB goes into great minutiae, much of which is wrong. My name was in his book for reporting the discovery of the 1794 4B, 5B & 6B! Katman got credit for the diestate of 1811-1. WB claimed ignorance of my part in their discovery but he saw them at EAC in Chicago in 1977. I think it will be perfectly obvious he had little contact w. collectors. Should I expect a free copy since I was listed as a contributor? He, WB was most proud of his own picture in the front and of the drawings of Collins, Hansen & another chap working the coining machinery.

Best regards
Frank

↓ Over

Years ago you told me that I shouldn't sell the lolls. I had several good reasons to do so, and would probably [illegible] if I still owned them. But I'm convinced now that these cut die [illegible] are the neatest half cents to own rather than mint state Liberty Caps which simply represent an outlay of MONEY (again big bucks)

Please let me know if the pressings don't come in good shape.

EAC 783 DON VALENZIANO JR. ANA L.M. 2128
HALF CENT COLLECTOR
312-452-5853

Aug 14

Dear Roger

Hope you enjoyed your vacation,

I am writing to ask you to consider passing on the Mathews 1806 C3, I realy need this coin for my collection. I am sure you have at least one example of this variety.

Take care of yourself. Hope you can find a way to make it to EAC 85, But I understand your work load.

Yours
Don V.

ans 8/27 By phone

cc Book

P.O. BOX 10161 CHICAGO, ILL 60610

9/22/84

Frank Wilkinson
W 348 Owen Hall MSU
East Lansing Mi 48825

Dear Frank,

Enclosed is for your efforts I hope you consider it enough if not call or write.

I still don't have the Magnum opus in all its Big Red glory - after waiting 13 Days I called Jack Beymer found they had sent it to old Post Office Box - Ordered another one - That was on 9/18 and its to early but My anxiety is getting the best of Me. I just want to dig in

Sent 2 94-26's to Don V. He was astounded at the Price I asked, so I cut it and still he doesn't seem to be able to reconcil Paying $1500 for the "G-6" Munde specimen. The grade is super Conservative (Jan Hansons). He may have shown it to you. This is Why I have so damn Many Pairs I really don't Want to Sell them. Bright Now My Main Collection is 275 Specimens and another 315 Which if I ran through all the die states I could put another 150 in the main Collection. While I don't have a CC Collection I think the collection is the tops for completion in the Country.

This is all for Now and Bob Yuell has been Writing to Me and signing as the "Reasonably famous New Jersey Collector" He has a whist Match scheduled With Corwin Goodridge on 10/13 which this to view

Cheerio

Roger

10-8-84

Dear Frank;

I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you that I really enjoyed the article on the "Reverse CC" ie Low graders- I do not dispute that some of my coins "Take the prize", but thought you should know that when I first got serious about these coins (1976-1978) I had a rule to not pay over $5/coin. I got quite a nice date/variety set together; although most were holed, porous or well worn, even a 95C6a (identifiable by leaf at RICA, which was only visable feature of coin) except fncy. Had I stuck to my limit, I suppose I would have put together a famous "Reverse CC" set, but a local tax man & collector got me to buying more expensive coins (often with readable dates etc) I am also interested in knowing (if you can tell) where the 1796 C-2 (w/ the "8"s added) is now. The reason I am curious is that I have reason to believe that this coin was in the collection of Geo. Ross.

Best wishes

Joseph Kane

Box 599
McLean, VA 22101

10/21

Roger,

Here is a copy of the write-up as submitted to Dr. Lapp. I hope he publishes it as is as I am ~~tire~~ tired of reports in EAC meetings that say, "We saw some coins, but we won't tell you what they were." Well, I'm telling them.

Apparently Bill Smith wrote the "Way Out West" - "Three months from now" letter to you. At least that's what he told JRM.

Del Bland sent me a note saying Ted Naftzger used to collect ½¢'s, but sold them in the TJ Clarke sale. REN is now buying some proof only's "for investment" (HA! HA! HA!).

Del also said the Ryder coins that Wayte Raymond Bought IN were sold in a mail bid sale in Nov, 1955.

That's it from here.

OH, yes Jack Collins is recovery from a near-fatal heart attack. Hope you Keep away from that button!

Frank.

Dear Frank.

I have decided to Sell the 1793 and the 1806 so if you have contacted Roger, get his best offers and we can go from there. We have also purchased a Super 94 C2a in problem free Brown VF 35 and a 04 C7 in a clean Fine+ you should look at these two Coins they come from one of my Florida Collector friend from an old Penn Estate.

"ONE THING I LIKE ABOUT MATTHEWS IS THAT I CAN GO THERE AND NOT BE HOUNDED BY FANS."

Sincerely

Bob Matthews

April 9, 1985
W346 Owen Hall MSU
East Lansing, MI 48825

Dear Dr. Lee,

It was good to hear from you, and I am glad you liked my latest article in Penny-Wise. Roger had given me that idea back in 1976. I am also writing to answer some of your questions. I don't have your letters here, but I think I can remember them well enough. First of all, I am not quite finished here, although I should have been gone more than a year ago, but that's life. I am not going to EAC this year as I don't have the time or money, and I have a couple of social engagements this weekend that I really don't want to miss. I figured that I might light a rocket under you when I mentioned that it is possible to obtain half cents for less than at auction. One does this primarily by having a lot of cash on hand so that one can be the principal or at least a principal buyer when a very established collection comes on the market and the owner does not want to deal with an auction house for some reason or another. I understand that the following collections have been offered for sale in the last five or six years: McGuigan, Weber, and Hansen (listed as California collection in the Breen book). You must keep in mind that these guys are not nuts, but they would like to think that any prospective buyer is. Jon Hansen reportedly offered his collection to Ted Naftzger for a million dollars, but the thing cannot be worth over $300,000. That's still a great deal of money, but the duplicates from it would be welcome in most collections. Tett also sells coins from time to time, but Jim McGuigan is currently his biggest fish, and I've told Jim so, but he keeps buying overpriced stuff. Anyway, the idea is to be friends with people like Roger and Tett so that when a big set comes on the market, you can make a significant contribution towards the purchase price. I honestly don't know when the next collection will come up, but I think your experience with R. Gross should be remembered. It's also important to remember that at fixed prices, a collection should bring around 60 to 75% of what the individual coins would bring at auction.

In order for you to fill the holes in your collection with duplicates from either Roger or Tett, they would take your very best coins that would either improve their first line set or your neat die state coins. You would have to decide beforehand if you were willing to do something like that. There are times that one is put into a situation where he has only a few hours at most to make such a decision so deciding beforehand would be helpful.

I'm supposed to start a research job at the Unviversity of Michigan in May, and I hope to be there then. I'm sure that I'll have enough time to talk at length with you then. As for being someone's agent-I'm only trying to find the 1794 5b and 6b for a prominent East Coast accountant collector, and I accept any gratuity that comes my way for services rendered.

Very truly yours,

F.

Frank Wilkinson

Roger,
Not much new here,
I hope you enjoy this stuff.

242 [illegible] Apt. 11
[illegible] MA
[illegible]

Dear [illegible],

I [illegible] the [illegible] Thursday [illegible] [illegible] interesting. [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. He must [illegible] [illegible] anything [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] the Big Red Book. [illegible] I think [illegible] this approach? [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] Also [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]) Also [illegible] that [illegible] difference between the [illegible] & the BRB [illegible] the [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] the catalog [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible].

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] years. R & B has [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and has more MS's. [illegible] many of these [illegible] not necessarily [illegible] but many nice [illegible].

I [illegible] ANA in Baltimore [illegible] [illegible] to go, but I don't [illegible] I'll be able to [illegible]. I've [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] than I had anticipated.

[illegible] Bill [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 1952 [illegible]?

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Thanks for the copy of your talk at the ANS last December. I'd like [illegible] to [illegible] who you are of the opinion that the 1st [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] the original [illegible] [illegible] circa 1854-1865.

[illegible] I [illegible] recently [illegible] NC [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. He paid $[illegible] for [illegible] a [illegible]. I [illegible] cannot [illegible] the [illegible] being paid for [illegible] [illegible]. I'd probably [illegible] if I'd [illegible] about the [illegible].

When I [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] of the [illegible] sequence for 1795-1859, I [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] sequence [illegible] [illegible] and the Prices are the major [illegible]. I'm [illegible] of [illegible] half cent [illegible]. What are the questions you have about the half cent series?

[illegible] half cents — [illegible]!

Best regards,

Jacob Wilkinson

Roger,

[illegible] ... Big Red Book [illegible] ...

[illegible] ... the BRB

[illegible] ... Red Book ([illegible]) [illegible] ... Blood [illegible] ...

[illegible] ... LRB [illegible] ...

[illegible] ... Do you [illegible] ... LC book? [illegible] ...

[illegible] ... Red [illegible] ... Tit, [illegible] ...

[illegible]

[illegible] BRB. [illegible]
[illegible] the BRB [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] BRB [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] copy of the [illegible]
[illegible]?

April 1, 1986
[illegible] Mount, Terrace #[illegible]
Ann Arbor MI 4810[illegible]

Dear Roger,

I was at John Wright's home over the weekend and looked through a number of auction catalogues. Looking through the Pine Tree catalogue of the 197[illegible] EAC sale I noticed lot 553 was listed as a 1797 [illegible] half cent [illegible] struck on an [illegible] (?) cent. I noticed the half cent looked a [illegible], further checking showed it to be a 1795 C-6 (see p 182 of the BRP). You see, Breen misattributed that coin on which he based his conclusion that one or more 1797 [illegible] heads took the [illegible] die break from the fraction through UNI. (You probably already know that)

Also I checked out C.W. Peck's English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum 1558-1958 from the university library. If you don't have a copy of that book, you might want to get one to read at [illegible] your free time after tax season. The book appears loaded with historical information and [illegible] summary of a few centuries of numismatic research. The [illegible] early British copper coinage in many ways is superior to [illegible]. Aside from the [illegible] advance in Half Cent research [illegible] was the first to my knowledge to [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]. I [illegible] called but [illegible] phone [illegible] you in May [illegible]

6/21/86

WILKINSON

Dear Frank.

Enclosed is a Coin which I think should be a good Starter for your Collection. I've owned it since the ANA of 1969

Moriarty and I came to Terms at $1600 He was willing to accept 1500 but....

The Coin is definitely one of the better ones for the Variety although Hanson would definitely list it as one in AU 55 unless he was selling then it should be MS-65 Blazing Uncirculated Gem of the First Water and Nauseum..

Many Thanks.

Bugen

1809 #5

Plated for Close up of date
in
First Edition
2ND Edition
Red Book (SMALL ONE)

R. TETTENHORST
P. O. Box ~~9252~~ 14020
~~Richmond Heights~~, Missouri ~~63117~~
St. Louis 63178

Oct. 27, 1986

Dear Frank,

What a treat it was to get the listing of the Norweb Collection and your nice letter. There are a few that I would like to have, but ownership is really not the primary objective. The key coin to me is the 1854 pattern, and the important thing is to find out if it is truly copper-nickel. I suspect that it is, like the other one, only a regular copper proof. I do hope we have a chance to find out!

I will be glad to tell you the Showers story. It is very ordinary, and quite lacking in drama. The core of it is that I offered Joe Flynn a good price if I could buy only the coins I needed, and have first pick. We made a deal on that basis. What I took was a bit over half of the collection.

Eric Newman's museum is worth seeing, as much on esthetic grounds as on numismatics. He was able to suppress his specialized knowledge and create a museum that is interesting and educational to the non-numismatist, including school children. You should plan a special trip to St. Louis to see it — and I'll show you my entire collection at the same time. Let's make a date!

As an enticement, I am enclosing a list of the best of each variety that I have. The grading is a composite of my own, and those of Roger, Jim, & Hanson, each of whom have seen many of the coins. Also Bill Weber. Please keep the list confidential for yourself only. One qualification is that some of the die states may be inexact, as many of the coins were acquired before I was much interested in die states, and I have not done a thorough job yet of reviewing them all.

I would be glad to journey for a whist or show-and-tell session, but I'd just as soon avoid a "who has the best one" contest. I have only 10 or 12 different die states of 04 C6. But I do have 4 or 5 of 1811 C1, three of 06 C3, five of 04 C7.

Glad to hear you are getting settled back in East Lansing. I haven't been through that sort of disruption really since the Korean Was in the early 50's.

Thank you for the letter,

Tett

Roger,
I asked Tett if he'd like to come to a Brag/Yoell whist match and we'd also have a die state study time. I have no idea when such an event would come down

JEW.

November 3, 1986
1110 E University Village
East Lansing, MI
48823

Dear Roger,

I really underestimated how excited Tettenhorst would get when he found out the "copper-nickel" 1854 half cent ex Frossard was still in the Norweb collection! He wrote me immediately. He had a lot to say, so I've enclosed a copy of his letter. He also enclosed a copy of his inventory to entice me to come to St. Louis to see his collection. I want to go. I think it would be even better if you and I could go together (if it could be arranged p ok w/ Tott) to see his stuff. I'm not so arrogant to think I'd pick up the fine points of the die states, striking variations or grades of his coins. Are you interested? I couldn't realistically go until Jan or Feb.

JRM had some interesting tidbits. He bought the 1795 C6A from the Superior sale associated w/ the RSB stuff. Bought it as a 50, "brushed up" to 55+ for $8500 + juice. The 1793 #3 in AU+. One was a 55 to 60 for 26K + juice by Tarranova probably for REN. Also Gary Fitzgerald sold his MS63 1794 #9 & the 1797 C2 ex Garrett to an unknown collector (Probably REN). Please note that no one is to let of us know what REN has.

When I was at the big auction match between you & JRM back in '82 or so, I realized that most of the guys who buy 1/2¢ varieties in a big way were there (you, JRM, T&H, Don V., Noel Bragg, Skinkles) and that if you guys worked as a consortium rather than each of each other up, you could get coins cheaper. Anyway, I value the Norweb collection at 350K, but if a consortium put up about 275K (which would be the 350 minus the auction house fees), I think the Norweb set could be bought straight out. Dr. Lew, T&H, you, Frankenfeld and some other guys would probably be interested in such an arrangement. If you think it's a terrible idea, forget that I ever mentioned it.

I'll write T&H and see if I (we) can come in January or February - I hope it can be arranged.

Also the 1795 C2A in VF35 owned by Jonathan Kern is now for sale at $5995 (up from $2600) in the latest Bowers & Merena FPL. JRM has recounted to now calls the coin a 45, green, lustrous, but spotted of course. B&M call it → MS60 (what a pleasant surprise). Ownership is now worth about 20 points! B&M apparently bought it at the ANA. In the future, I plan to carry 2 or 3 K to coin shows to buy rare coins for my friends (or even myself). See you later

Frank

11/6/56

Dear Roger,

Enclosed ~~is~~ a copy I received from Del Bland and a copy of one I sent him. I've been too busy to "discover" any more pedigrees so I don't have anything new (about coins) since I wrote earlier in the week

Frank

Dear Frank,

The Norweb half cents as well as the entire U.S. collection will be sold. The family priority is to dispose of all the foreign coins as well as personal property of the parents, Mr. & Mrs. R. Henry Norweb. Christies is handling this. The U.S. will not be sold by them but will be handled by a U.S. firm at auction. Not certain when this will happen but it probably will be a few years, maybe 3 or 4, I really don't know.

Yes, I need to see Rogers large cents. I know he had a nearly complete Sheldon set but know nothing of the grades. Hopefully I'll be able to do this in the spring. But that is his busy time of year, being an accountant.

Thanks for the info on the possible availability of the Eliasberg coll. for educational purposes. Those coppers I really need to see. Can you find out from someone who I can contact to see the half cents and large cents? I don't know anyone with connections to those people except maybe Ted Naftzger. Steve's might help, too.

I've been trying to see John J. Pittman's large cents for years. He says he'll let us (John Wright and me) know what he has. But so far he has been evasive whenever I've told him I'd be in the east. And he hasn't told us a thing. Wouldn't he'd bring anything to EAC. As far as I know he's never even attended one of our annual conventions.

(over)

they've got Robert Parish. He used to play for the Golden State Warriors for whom I worked for over 16 years on the statistic crew. I like the Warriors, they may make the playoffs this year. But if they stay healthy, the Celtics should win the NBA championship again. They'll have to beat Houston again though.

Don't have any new info on half cents to pass along. Being up here I'm out of the mainstream of things. Hope all is well with you in your new place.

Best Regards,

Del

P.S.

In the August, 1984 sale by Joe Lepczyk, an AU-55 S-214 was auctioned off. It came from the University of Michigan. Apparently the University got it from a guy named Lockwood. If you do any research, I would appreciate it very much if you would find out Lockwood's first name. And was it Dr. or Judge or? I have no other information but you'd probably have to start at the main library of the University at Ann Arbor and work from there. His name is somewhere over there.

November 6, 1986
1110 C University Village
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Del,

I received your letter tonight and am responding straight away. First of all, write Roger Cohen about possibly seeing his collection when you are in the East. I believe his bank where he keeps his collection is also in the same small mall as his accounting firm. Roger was the one who told me about the status of the Eliasberg estate. Your co-author, Walter Breen, as I understand, advised Louis Eliasberg on a number of coins to buy to upgrade the collection. As I recall, when I saw the collection under sub-optimal conditions at the Philly Mint after driving all night on the way to the ANA in NY City, it contained 3 1793 (all ½cts) VF or better, 1794 G, 1, 4, 5, 5, 9 all in VF or better, one (probably the G4) was nearly unc. The 1795 G6-thick appeared less than the reported grade of AU. The 1796 No Pole was solid red - it reminded me of the color of maraschino cherries. The 1802 G-1 was a VF 30 (may be more, may be less). The 1811's seemed nice, but I don't remember if he even had both varieties. I didn't give a rip about the proofs, so I didn't bother looking at them. The 1796 No Pole is now considered to be <u>at best</u> 2nd finest as 1). L.E. kept the coins in Books with the sliding vinyl covers, and apparently the coin is scratched and 2) At the 1976 exhibition, the coins were kept in large plastic boards as made by Capitol Plastics (I don't know if C.P. made them) and it was obvious the coins did not fit so the high points of the coins were flattened by all the banging incurred when the public gawked at the coins. Naturally, the latter effect would be most noticeable on the coins struck in high relief.

John J. Pittman has a real ego that needs to be stroked now and again. I would suggest a letter from Mr. Jeffrey Oliphant, President of EAC, asking JJP to exhibit all his ½¢ & large ¢ at the upcoming EAC in Dallas. ~~A~~ such a letter could be cosigned by Walter, Roger, JDW, Jules, Bob Grellman & You asking him to bring his coins as a special educational exhibit. EAC may have enough $ to bring him to Dallas & insure his coins. A Mr. Frank Russell of Indianapolis, Indiana (my hometown) routinely asks JJP to bring some stuff to the Indiana State Show for a non-competitive exhibit. → He's brought things like an 1875 $3 goldpiece. He loves to have people slobber over his coins!

I may be able to find out who Lockwood from the Univ. of Michigan was/is. He may have been the archeology professor associated with the ANS. Write the ANS. By the way, you had it listed as an S-214, but it was the much rarer S-215, now in the C Douglas Smith collection via Tom Matthews.

I am personally skeptical about the results of most, if not all, professional sports contests (e.g. the recent World Series - boy did they stink). As a youth I watched professional wrestling, which at least people know is not on the up & up (If professional wrestling were honest, André the Giant would be champ, and everyone else would be dead). I do believe the boys actually made the shots, hit the balls, catch passes & etc. BUT, there are too many infractions that are not called by the officials and the rules are constantly being changed so that certain teams are favored at the expense of others.

God bless all,

Jim E. Wilkinson

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] MI [illegible]

Dear R[illegible]

Here is a copy of the article I received from [illegible] the IP[illegible], I [illegible] in [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I played both [illegible] and golf [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

It would be great if you could [illegible] P[illegible] the photographs [illegible] the [illegible] collection [illegible] 4. I think that [illegible] will have photographs of [illegible] [illegible] will be able to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the photo.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Roger,

Here is the early state 1804 C5. Using John Wright's microscope I saw no evidence of a spike, a protruding tongue, or die marks in front of the face. What do you think of it.

I'm going to give Miss Clotz some money soon to convince her I'm serious about her chasing down records about Col. Green.

I really appreciate your handling of my tax case; I'd have no idea of how to deal w. the commissary.

Frank

6/17/87

Frank

I spent about an Hour today on your 1804 which I am returning. I say its a C-5 - The Point of the Spiked Chin shows also The bulged area in Front of the face. The Reverse does Not show the crack from C in AMERICA to the A of States but I can see cracks from each of these letters to the rim. The die sinking from E of States to F of OF is diagnostic of the later state of # 5.

Sorry if I dont come up with the answer that would be pleasant but this is how it appears to me

Roger

Pete Smith's The Story of the Starred Reverse Cent A Review

In 1986 I heard that Pete Smith was going to write a book on the Starred Reverse cent, and only the Starred Reverse cent. I thought he was crazy. Early this year I bought one for five dollars because I like to support the scholastic projects of EAC'ers. What I received for a mere five dollars was the most in-depth study of a single coin variety I have ever heard of that establishes a standard that will be difficult to equal, let alone better.

The book goes over the discovery of the variety by Henry Chapman some time around 1876 or 1877. Dr. Maris was supposedly present when the discovery was made, but he apparently did not record the circumstances of the discovery for future cent lovers. Pete includes comments about the early specimens and tries to determine which of the known specimens was the discovery coin. Although it cannot now be determined which coin was the discovery coin, the data about the first six coins found are presented so that Smith, John Adams, or another cent scholar may be able to piece together these pedigrees.

Mr. Smith covers the history of the scholarship of the variety including the speculations regarding the significance of the stars. He offers counter arguments against many of these speculations and concludes that it is likely that we shall never know the significance of the stars because the die sinkers did not record their every movement at the early mint.

Pete examined the Eagle on a Rock pattern quarter in the Smithsonian, which has 87 five pointed stars around the border on the reverse (The S-48 has 94 stars.) He mentions past opinion which stated that it was a pattern half eagle while current research says it's a pattern quarter dollar. But to me, the important thing is that Pete pointed out that the stars on the cent are significantly smaller, and more regularly shaped than on the pattern (one of the star points is virtually missing on the pattern) so that it is very unlikely the same star punch was used on both dies.

Mr. Smith compiled a census of every recorded specimen. This census includes a sketch of the coin with locations of pits, scratches, and other defects, the grade of the coin, the pedigree of the coin as far back in time as can be determined, and other anecdotes about several specimens. Each coin is coded, such as 10 B, which means that the current owner grades the coin a 10, and Mr. Smith says that of all the tens listed, this is the second best one.

The only negative comment I have heard about the book is that Pete should have included photographs of as many of the coins as possible. There are two major problems: The first is that it's nearly impossible to get all the owners to allow you to photograph their coins. The second is that so many of the S-48's are in "worse than scudzy" condition.

I have never owned an S-48, and I doubt if I ever will, but I highly recommend this book to anyone remotely interested in early US copper or to anyone wanting to write a highly technical work on a single variety of any coin, U.S. or foreign.

MB-20 → This is really nice for skateboarding

THE MACKINAC BRIDGE — MICHIGAN

A huge ore freighter is dwarfed by the tremendous size of the bridge towers, which stand 552 feet above the water.

Bridge statistics:
Designed by Dr. David B. Steinman
Total length including approaches . . . 5 miles
Length of main span . . . 8,614 ft. (World's longest)
Total length wire in main cables . . . 42,000 miles.
Height of towers above water . . . 552 ft.
Maximum depth of towers below water . . . 210 ft.

Dear Roger,
I looked up the 1841 restrikes last nite. Stacks 3/75 & 8/76 sales are "instructive." The TAD coin (Lot 859) has the break from star 4 to 7 and the ANA coin (Lot 188) has an unbroken obverse. ~~Both are~~ The ANA coin is listed as "2nd restrike" & are of earlier die state than TAD original lot 858 or the coin plated in WBreen's proof book (which I think is also an original) — Alvord & Helfenstein plates are "indistinct".

K 150508

Upper Michigan Card Co., Manistique, Michigan. Copyright 1978 George M. Houghton

"In the Land of Hiawatha"

POST CARD

Address

Roger S. Cohen
4701 Sangamore Rd
Bethesda, MD
20016

Best Regards
TAD is 1st restrike but sounds like a 2nd
Frank Wixenman [?]
- tell me what you think

August 11, 1987

Dear Mr. Wilkerson:

I received your letter on August 8th and am always glad to hear from someone who has an interest in Half Cents. Doing pedigrees on coins (Half Cents) sounds interesting and time consuming. I am a Electronics Instructor teaching various systems at Keesler AFB here in Biloxi. I have several hobbies, one is coins which I've been in since 1958. I also do a little microphotography and research for little known variety coins and I also look out for unknown varieties. Now for some background on the 1794 C5b I have. I got the coin from a dealer in Nov/Dec 1982 while at a small coin and stamp show in a shopping mall at Pensacola Fla. I did not own a pre 1800 Half Cent and wanted to get one, so when I saw this 1794 it looked good to me except for a planchet flaw. I got it and for a very reasonable price. When I got home I attributed it as a C5 from Cohen's first book. However I noticed it had large rim letters, not the normal small letters so I noted it that way and put it in my "keep box" where I put my unusual finds. I didn't pay any attention to it for some time then one day while going thru the box I got it out and decided to send it off to ANACS hoping it might come back as a planchet defect, not a damaged coin. I got the coin back with papers dated 7/26/83 and graded F-12/12 Damaged, but by the date 1794 it showed C5b so I ordered a copy of Cohen's 2nd book since I was not use to getting coins back from ANACS with attributed numbers. I didn't get the book until Dec 1983 and needless to say when I looked up C5b I just about had a heart attack. I knew within hours after buying the coin I had a unlisted variety but I didn't know how rare until I got the new book. I found out later it was Ron Roth who checked it out for ANACS.

As for a price for the coin I'm afraid I can't help you since I really don't know myself. I turned down the only offer I have had ($3,000) because I feel a coin such as this, damage and all, is worth much more. At this time I can't name the figure because none comes to mind and the fact that I have no experience with rare coins does not help matters. Maybe some day I'll put it in a public auction and let the bidders decide it's worth.

I took the enclosed pictures a few years ago and are yours to keep. Maybe I'll take the time to shoot some with my 35mm SLR and when I do I'll keep you in mind for a better set. I trust this letter is what you are looking for to aid you in your work and if I can assist you further let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Sincerley yours,

Obie Huffman

"Obie" Huffman

August 15, 1987
1110C University Village
East Lansing, Michigan

517-355-5554

Dear Roger,

I have been busy! I have enclosed copies of my update of the McGuigan collection (DNG stands for Did Not Grade). Mr. Huffman's response to my queries about his 1794 C5b; you'll probably get a kick out of his letter - esp. his estimation of the coin's worth. Miss Clutz sent me copies of the ~~estate~~ appraisal of the Green estate. I would not be surprised if the value of 600^+K for the numismatic items is their face value. If he had 3 or so double eagles for each year they were minted from 1850 until 1932, the value would be about ~~$50~~, $12,000 - face. From what I understand, he collected these things in several multiples. What do you think?

I am going to ~~~~ have Miss Clutz call the New Bedford, Mass. public library to see if they can be of any benefit. If it's a gold mine, I'll have her stay a day or two, if necessary, to copy all the documents we want.

Enclosed ~~also~~ are a copy of a review I wrote of Pete Smith's book on the S-48 as well as a copy of I letter I sent to Dillon Anderson of Houston, Texas. Please note the question about Sylvia's collection and the statement about no ~~~~ ~~sale~~ auction of Green's coins

God bless,
Frank Wilkinson

December 18, 1987
1110 C University Village
East Lansing MI 48823

Dear Roger,

I saw Dr. Lee's collection Tuesday night and photographed about 120 130 coins. He has a number of great specimens. The ones I remember (I'm at work) are: 1793 C1 EF w. break, 1793 C3 EF banged up rim, 1793 C4 VF 30+ great color + surface 1794 1b two specimens VG + G., 1794 2b - the Coin Galleries coin "VG". 1794 3a 20 + 15, 1794 5a VF 20 the Katman coin 1794 C7, C8 both 10 → 12 + Ex Ricky 1794 C9 EF-AU 1795 C1 EF+ 1795 C2a EF-AU. 1794 C4 45 or 50 - great surfaces. 1795 C6 45 or 50. 1796 C2 EF (a great coin). 1797 C1 EF w. latest state I've seen w break going ~~thr~~ near 1 of date to center 1797 3b F-VF. 1802 C1 G5 Ex Reivers 1802 C2 Ex Pfau VF 20, 1803 C2 Ex Ricky VF35, F15 w break Ex Dupont, 1803 C4 EF40 Ex Ricky - not the Dupont-Spence specimen 1804 C2 Good 4, better than the Long-JRM ~~—~~ and Silberman JRM-JHR-Reivers specimens, 1804 C4 F18 and VF20 ex JRM + Pine-Gross, respectively, 1804 C5 Listed as 35, I think 45. 1804 C7 w latest state VF 20, 1804 C11 VF35. 1806 C2 EF 40, 1808 C2 w Rim cud 1809 C1 VF30 C-4, 1809 C2 AU55 60 C Cloez, 1811 C1 nearly EF w brk 1811 C2 Turkus coin w. OF break + plated in EHC. 1826 C2 MS60', 1831 Walton coin 1832 C MS65, 1833 one proof + one likely proof, 1834 two glimmering faded red proofs, 1835 proofs of both varieties, 1836 2 originals, 1 1st restrike, 1841 two original proofs, a few other originals in the 1840's, 2 1846 1st restrikes, 1849 w red, 2 faded red proofs of 1850, 1853 w red, 1854 w dot in MS, 1856 at least two proofs, one of which is the pattern, no 1857 proof He made me a pedigree list which he kept for himself + said he'd send me a copy of when he gets around to it

You may have known about some of these, others no. I was astounded at the quality of his stuff esp after 1810. Dr. Lee buys a great deal by mail at auction after having had the stuff shipped for his inspection before the sale.

The JRM 1793 C2 is almost certainly Ex Alvord. I'm sure that if it is true, this information would not hurt him when he goes to sell the coin! And I'm now beginning to appreciate how helpful it will be to have photos of specimens we know of to compare w. auction plates to establish pedigrees.

Will send a Christmas Card

Best wishes

Fran

INSURANCE
REAL ESTATE
MUTUAL FUNDS

888-1250

see the Rev for my comments. GEW

John E. Borhek
4 HERRING ~~WAY~~ Run
EAST SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 02537

7/12/88

Dear Mr Wilkinson,

I still have the 1797 NC 5 but it is not for sale. At one time I had about 700 die vars. When I could no longer find any large lots I kept 180 of my best and major varieties and sold the rest to Bill Noyes. One of my better coins is 1803 large date small fraction S 264 in at least condition 12 with nice surfaces. Darwin Palmer is after me for that one.

In half cents my best is a Gilbert 3 of 1794 a beautiful light tan in at least condition 40. In late dates I have 1833 C1 1834 C1 1835 C1 + 1854 C1 all are 65 I have a total of 43 ½ cents

Re Col Green. In the late 1920s I worked summers in an investment firm across the street from the First National Bank of Boston. One day after the Col died a fleet of Brinks express trucks brought his valuables up to their vault. New Bedford is about 40 minute drive from our house.

Best regards,
Jack Borhek

7/16/88
303 W. Oak St.
W. Lafayette IN 47906

Dear Roger,

I wrote Mr. Borhek recently on behalf of a friend who would like to acquire Mr Borhek's 35-40 condition 1797 NC5. I also asked if he knew anything about Col. Green. Basically, I think we've hit the jackpot here. First of all ~~it~~ we now know the name of the bank where the Green coins were taken (Note that J.B. worked there in the 1920's, Green died in 1936, but I guess getting the dates straight can be tough after 50 years!)

Second, the 1794 G3 (C8) is probably the 1794 C3 McGuigan told me about (and that he was trying to acquire. This may be the VF-30 coin listed in your top ten, or may be a new coin. In either case, the CC of this variety has really gone up. I'll write him and ask if he knows where/when he got the coin and what his other 38 half cents are.

I'll also ask him if hes interested he might want to visit New Bedford to see if anything of the Col's is in the library there. I'm beginning to wonder how big the Col's collection was as I'm beginning to feel like a ship approaching an iceberg!

When Borhek said he bought LC's by the large lot, he wasn't kidding. He bought them by the milk containers - like farmers use!

Best regards,

Frank

Sept 20, 1988
913 N 20th St. Apt 6
Lafayette, IN 47904

Dear Roger,

Enclosed is a copy of the half cent RT is consigning to the Jack Robinson sale RT said this consignment is in payment for a proof 1922 Peace Dollar he bought at auction 88. I figure the consignment will have a hammer price of $75,000 (assuming RT withdraws the 1797 C-2, which I've advised). He may not withdraw the 1797 because he may be purchasing the Hansen collection. If RT buys the Hansen, he would get the Ruby 97-2 or a TAL as well as the Judd Helfenstein 93-1 w break. Also, the 93-2 that is being sold was in Eric's museum, but was "replaced by RT's 93-1 w rim break. Also RT asked me something about how to get the Hansen coins, but I dont remember exactly what he asked. I figure the Hansen collection would bring 410 K at auction if there were a tug of war on every coin, 250 - 300 K would be more realistic. Have you heard anything? I'm looking forward to receiving your FPL #2. Seeing all those (RT) coins, even for the 2nd time is stunning.

I have a couple of questions What proportion of the top ten ~~coins~~ specimens of the Type Coins should we have photos of before we go to press? The second is when do you think we should try for? As it is now, I feel as though I have pictures of ~30% of the top type coins now, and will have 57% ~~after~~ phot of the rarities after photographing the Weber, Schoenwalter, Goodridge collections as well as the new coins you & Brain have since picked up.

Tell your beautiful women I said hello

Best regards & God bless,

Frank

October 4, 1980
913 N 20th street Apt 6
Lafayette, IN 47904

Dear Roger,

I received letter [illegible] yesterday [illegible] the [illegible] large [illegible] in the grade [illegible] I suppose [illegible] also like [illegible] deciphering the [illegible] I suppose [illegible] potential [illegible] legal problems). [illegible] yesterday [illegible] paid [illegible] that [illegible] happy [illegible]

I [illegible] talked [illegible] JRM [illegible] cheery [illegible] expert [illegible] had [illegible] that [illegible] the [illegible] JRM [illegible] from the [illegible] JRM [illegible] JRM [illegible] valued [illegible] at [illegible] at [illegible] 96 at [illegible] I [illegible] of your big trade [illegible] has it fallen through? JRM has heard nothing about [illegible] 1/2 [illegible]

[illegible] are the collectors whose half [illegible] I [illegible] to photograph [illegible] Montgomery, [illegible], [illegible] Fred [illegible], [illegible] J [illegible], R [illegible] Bob [illegible], [illegible] Reale, M [illegible] Donald [illegible] (Patrick) Bob [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Leonard [illegible] Any others?

[illegible] JRM [illegible] Reale bought the [illegible] 18[illegible] [illegible]

Hope all is well [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

10/16/88

Carl E. Ostiguy
15656 Mews CT.
Laurel Md. 20707

Dear Mr Ostiguy,

Frank Wilkenson has forwarded the Photos of your 1800 (struck over a large date) which I am returning to you.

Frank indicated that you wanted some specifics as to condition, standing in CC, etc.

This coin is probably the 4th best known out of TEN to me as far as condition is concerned. Based on the Photos I would grade it as a VG-8 However I would like to see the coin.

You should note how strong the reverse ~~it~~ is. The word OF stands out. On latter 1800's struck on Bolton planchets the die is quite weak at OF. I have covered this in my Second Edition which I assume you have a copy of.

The Big Red Book also covers this matter of the 1800. However it takes a while to separate the buckwheat from the bullshit in all that barrage of words.

You might call me at (301-279-7700) and perhaps we can meet at the Lanham show

Sincerely

Roger Cohen

10/16/88

Dear Midnite Golden Rooster:

Thanks for you recent letter. I written to Mr Ostifny - I had gotten a letter previously ad Noted the grammar problems.

What Was supposed to he on the 3 rolls that didnt Come out?

Thursday was the big day for Me. Weber sent Me some Coins. On that day I Could say that I had in My Possession all 99 Varieties and sub Varieties. It has taken Me from October 1973 to date, some 15 years. to acquire a Complete Collection again. I wonder how long it will last this time before a New Variety or Sub Variety is found. I do Not Agree with ALNB (AMERICAS LEADING NUMISMATIC BULLSHITER) that Planchets Make sub Varieties. The definitions are "STRETCHED SLIGHTLY"

Weber has sold My 1794 #6a (F+2) and (Pictured in First Edition) to Rich Leonard.

Weber and I have a few details to Work out. He sent Me his best examples of 1804 #1, #5 ad #8. Some of Which Were Photoed ~~for~~ in the Big Red Book. I Was frankly some What Disappointed in their Condition. I Couldnt Help but Note the Plenthora of these Variety in My Collection and duplicate box. I gave up some cc#1 Coins but I guess its Worth it to slide back to cc#7.

Keep in Touch.

Roger

7-11-89

Dear Roger,

Enclosed is the letter I want you to forward to Donald Partrick as well as the postcard. I want "Grover" to send to me! I weighed the ANA catalogue - two pounds! So here are Xerox copies. Your new Coins I'd like to photograph are;

1794 C 3b.
1794 C 5b
1794 C 6a, b
1797- C-2
1825 C 2 }
1826 C1 } ex Shalowitz-Ricky
185[illegible] C Nickel }
+ New Proofs.
+ downgraded 1804's from W Weber!

It's Past Midnite & this Rooster is tired & needs to get to bed so he can be Golden at work tomorrow

Donald Partrick
1787-6 Veteran's Memorial Highway
Central Islip, NY 11722

INDIANA

by Darryl Jones

LAFAYETTE, IN 479
PM
1989

Dear Roger, Debbie, Kate & Amy,

Here is another fine example of God's creativity, and right here in Indiana. Another good reason to worship Him.

By the way, the VG 1843 Original in the FBI collection was definitely Ex Eaton.

God bless all,

Frank

Roger S Cohen Jr & Family
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, Maryland
20816

25 USA

JIP 174 • Sugar Creek at Shades State Park.

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